(manufactured) MAJORITY

Tales from the 2022 Alaska U.S. Congress Race & U.S. Senate Race

Alaska's 1st Use Case of Jungle Primary & Ranked Choice Voting

The Most Expensive Election in Alaska's History

Producing the Lowest Voter Turnout in Alaska's History

1. The total cost for implementing RCV, along with regular and special election costs, amounted to $11,093,006.41, which was 328% of the election costs from 2010-2020.
2. Most Expensive Election in Alaska's History, The State spent 20x what was budgeted for voter education related to Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Implementation.
3. Alaska had the lowest voter turnout in history using Ranked Choice Voting and Jungle Primary for the first time.
4. A Democrat received the lowest percentage of the vote in a U.S. Senate Election in Alaska's History.
5. 3rd Party candidates went from Five 3rd Party candidates in 2020 for a U.S. Senate General Election to Zero 3rd Party candidates in 2022.
6. Nearly 60% of the State voted for a Republican in the U.S. House Race multiple times and yet a Democrat won the election every election.
7. The number of candidates increased by 700% when switching from a closed primary system to a jungle primary system.

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EDUCATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction and Summary 5

Chapter 1. Why was 2022 so different? 8

Chapter 2. Ranked Choice Voting 20

Chapter 3. Open Primary vs. Jungle Primary? 41

Chapter 4. Special Jungle Primary 49

Chapter 5. Special Ranked Choice Voting General 57

Chapter 6. Regular Jungle Primary 64

Chapter 7. Regular Ranked Choice Voting General 77

Chapter 8. Fallout 102

Bibliography 110

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

"(manufactured) Majority" by Phil Izon delves into the impacts and implications of jungle primaries and ranked-choice voting (RCV) on political dynamics and election costs, using Alaska's recent electoral reforms as a case study.

Here are the key points from the book:

1. Jungle Primaries and Political Parties

- Jungle primaries, which are open primaries allowing multiple candidates from any party or no party, often require substantial financial backing for candidates to compete effectively. This shifts reliance towards large donors, potentially marginalizing small donors and grassroots candidates. (48 candidates in the US House race in 2022 Jungle Primary)

- The case study of Alaska's 2022 jungle primary illustrates this impact, where combining all Republican candidates' votes (Palin, Begich, Sweeney, Coghill, and Revak) totaled 56.7%. This resulted in strategic manipulations and diminished party influence, with candidates attacking each other more than their opposition, undermining party unity. Results

were predictably bad with Mary Peltola winning even though she did not get a majority of the vote.

2. Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) Costs

- The implementation of RCV in Alaska significantly increased election costs by 328% compared to previous systems. This surge was attributed to extensive voter education campaigns, updated voting equipment, and complex ballot counting processes.

- Detailed analysis indicates that RCV elections consistently incur higher costs due to these factors, questioning the cost-effectiveness of the system

3. Implications for Third-Party Candidates

- RCV was expected to benefit third-party candidates by mitigating the "spoiler effect," yet data from Alaska and Maine suggest otherwise. The representation of third-party candidates did not see significant improvement, with the two-party dominance largely remaining intact. The system has not produced reliable data to prove that it helps 3rd parties. In most cases it helps Democrats, even though there are multiple prominent Democrats that oppose the system including the D.C. Democrat Party, Gov. Gavin Newsom, Vice President Walter F. Mondale, and Democrat Washington State Secretary of State.

- The system's complexity and voter confusion can lead to ballot exhaustion, where votes for eliminated candidates are not transferred, thus impacting the overall election outcome.

4. Case Study: Alaska's Electoral Changes

- The book discusses Alaska's experience with the jungle primary and RCV, highlighting specific elections such as the 2022 US Senate and House races. The results revealed a substantial shift in voter behavior and strategic voting, often leading to unexpected outcomes and potential gaming of the system.

5. Conclusion

- While Ranked Choice Voting claims to get a majority, it does not guarantee an absolute majority of all voters who participated. The financial and logistical burdens of implementing RCV, combined with its complex impact on voter behavior and party dynamics, suggest that its benefits may not always outweigh the costs.

Overall, "(manufactured) Majority" critically examines the promises and pitfalls of electoral reforms like jungle primaries and RCV, urging policymakers to carefully weigh the financial and democratic implications before widespread adoption.

CHAPTER 1.

WHY WAS 2022 SO DIFFERENT?

Absolute Majority in Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

An absolute majority refers to securing over half of all the votes cast in an election. In traditional voting systems, this is straightforward: each voter casts one vote for a single candidate, and the candidate with more than 50% of the votes wins. However, in Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), voters rank their preferred candidates.

If no candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their votes are transferred to the next preferred candidate on each ballot. This process continues until a candidate has more than half of the active votes in a given round. The key distinction is that the "majority" in RCV pertains to the remaining active votes, which may not represent a majority of the total votes cast due to ballot exhaustion.

Exhaustion of Ballots

A significant issue with RCV is the exhaustion of ballots. When all of a voter's ranked choices are eliminated, and they have not ranked any of the remaining candidates, their ballot is no longer counted in the final tally. As a result, the number of active votes used to determine the majority can decrease. Consequently, a candidate might win with a majority of the remaining active votes but not with a majority of the total votes cast.

Implications

1. Claim of Absolute Majority: Proponents of RCV claim it ensures that the winner has an "absolute majority" of the votes. This is true for the active votes in the final round but not for all votes originally cast, as many ballots may be exhausted.
2. Representation and Legitimacy: The winner in an RCV election may be determined by a smaller subset of voters due to ballot exhaustion. This raises questions about the representativeness and legitimacy of the election outcome, as the winning candidate might not have the support of a majority of all voters who participated.

Conclusion

While RCV ensures the winner has broad support among voters with active preferences, it does not always guarantee an absolute majority of all voters who participated. This distinction is crucial for understanding the effectiveness and fairness of RCV in different electoral contexts.

For instance, in the 2022 Special General Election for Alaska's US House seat, despite the Republican candidates receiving more total votes initially, Democrat Mary Peltola won due to the RCV process. This outcome illustrates how RCV can lead to a candidate winning without achieving an absolute majority of all votes cast, emphasizing the importance of recognizing the limitations of the "absolute majority" claim in RCV systems.

In ranked choice voting (RCV), as ballots are eliminated or their votes are transferred during the counting process, some ballots may become exhausted and no longer contribute to determining the final outcome. This can occur when a voter's preferred candidates have been eliminated or their remaining choices are not viable.

As a result, it is technically incorrect to claim that RCV always guarantees an absolute majority in the strictest sense of surpassing the 50% threshold of total ballots cast. Exhausted ballots mean the remaining active ballots may not provide an absolute majority of the total ballots cast.

What is an Absolute Majority?

An absolute majority, also known as a simple majority, occurs when one candidate or option receives more than half of the total votes or seats. For example, in an election with 100 total votes, an absolute majority is achieved if a candidate secures 51 or more votes. This ensures that the winning candidate or option has the support of more than half of the voters or decision-makers, providing a clear mandate. In the context of RCV, the claim of achieving an absolute majority can be misleading, as it often only refers to a majority of the remaining active votes, not the total votes cast.

Determining the Best Representative

Determining the "best person" to represent a real-world population is a highly subjective and complex task, as it involves a multitude of factors including demographics, ideologies, policies, and personal values.

1. Demographic Representation: Analyze the demographic composition of the population in question and ensure that the elected representative reflects the diversity of that population in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, etc. This can involve statistical analysis comparing the demographics of the elected representative to those of the population they represent.
2. Policy Alignment: Assess how closely the policies and platforms of the elected representative align with the preferences and needs of the population. Surveys, focus groups, and public opinion polls can be used to gauge public sentiment on various issues, and the elected representative's stance on these issues can be compared accordingly.
3. Election Outcome vs. Popular Vote: In systems where representatives are elected through processes such as direct democracy or proportional representation, you can compare the outcome of the election (i.e., the elected representative) to the popular vote results. Significant disparities between the two may indicate flaws in the electoral process.
4. Performance Metrics: Define specific performance metrics or criteria for what constitutes an effective representative (e.g., responsiveness to constituents, legislative effectiveness, ethical conduct). Evaluate the elected representative against these

criteria to assess their suitability as a representative of the population.

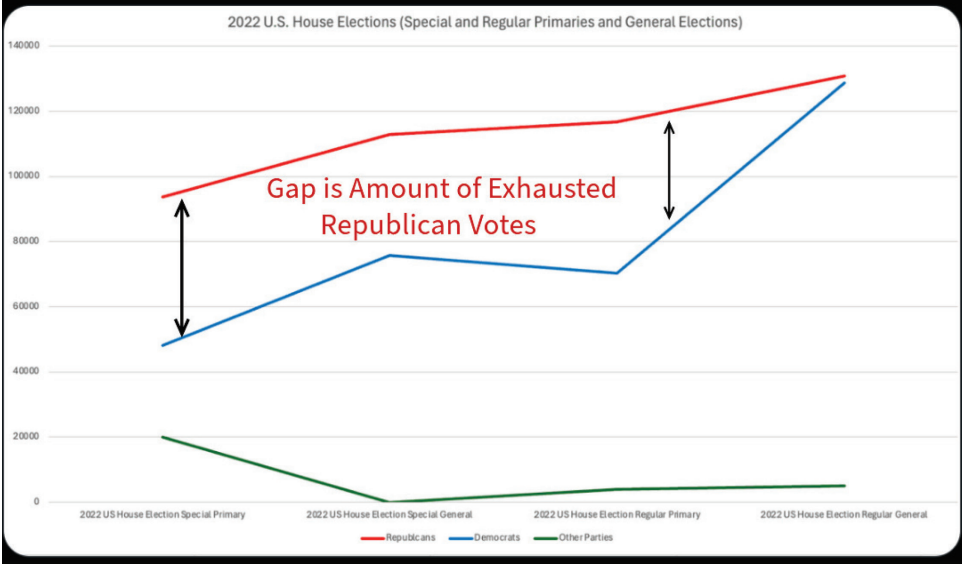
5. Public Satisfaction: Measure public satisfaction or approval ratings of the elected representative over time. High levels of public satisfaction may suggest that the representative is effectively representing the interests of the population, while low levels may indicate the opposite.
6. Consultative Processes: Implement consultative processes such as town hall meetings, citizen assemblies, or participatory budgeting, where constituents can directly engage with their representative and provide feedback on their performance and priorities.
7. Independent Oversight: Establish independent oversight bodies or mechanisms tasked with evaluating the performance and representation of elected officials, providing an impartial assessment of their effectiveness in representing the population.
8. Longitudinal Analysis: Conduct longitudinal studies to track changes in representation and public opinion over time, allowing for a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process and its outcomes.

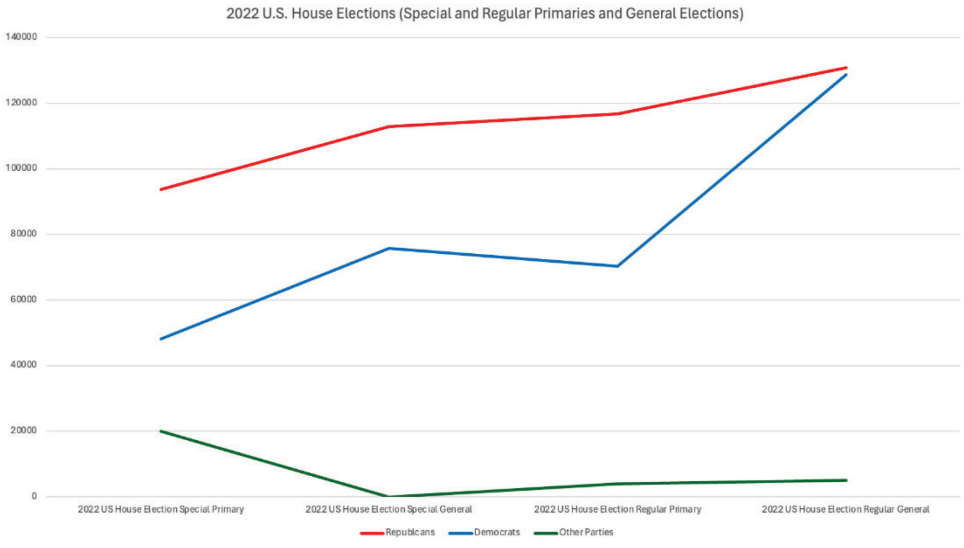
By incorporating these methodologies, it is possible to gain a more nuanced understanding of the effectiveness and accuracy of an election process in selecting the "best person" to represent a given population.

2022 U.S. House Special & Regular Elections

2022 U.S. House Election in Alaska, if you notice Republicans had more votes in every election. Yet @MaryPeltola won multiple elections???????

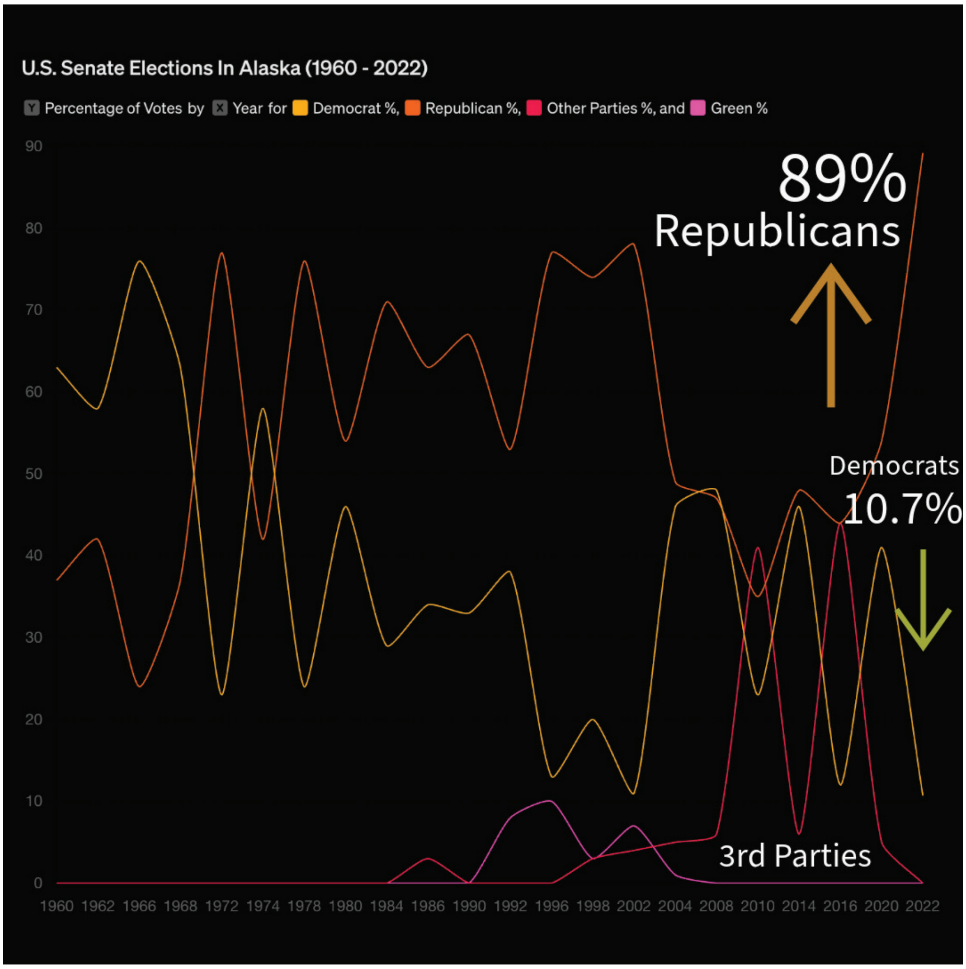
Election Type	Republicans	Democrats	Other Parties
Special Primary	93,590	48,195	20,029
Special General	112,783	75,799	0
Regular Primary	116,784	70,295	3,936
Regular General	130,835	128,755	4,999





U.S. Senator Tom Cotton also weighed in on the Alaska experience with ranked-choice voting, highlighting that although 60% of Alaska voters supported a Republican candidate, the convoluted process and ballot exhaustion resulted in a Democrat winning, which he viewed as a form of voter disenfranchisement.

2022 U.S. Senate Election



In this graph, you will see that 2022 was a statistical anomaly, Democrats received the lowest percentage of the vote in a U.S. Senate Election in Alaska History. Republicans received the most votes by percentage ever in history. 3rd party candidates were virtually eliminated from the General Election.

The Claim That Ranked Choice Voting is Cheaper can be laid to rest. It is not based on any real data, in fact the Regular 2022 RCV Election cost over a million dollars more than all previous elections since 2010 in Alaska. This cost does not include the $3.5 Million spent on up front RCV expenses or the $2.5 Million spent for the 2022 Special Election.

2022 Total $5,052,515.13

2020 Total $3,910,029.20

2022 RCV Election was 29% ($1,142,485.93) More Expensive than 2020 Election

2018 Total $3,249,950.41

2022 RCV Election was 55% ($1,802,564.72) More Expensive than 2018 Election

2016 Total $2,949,870

2022 RCV Election was 71% ($2,102,645.13) More Expensive than 2016 Election

2014 Total $3,527,205

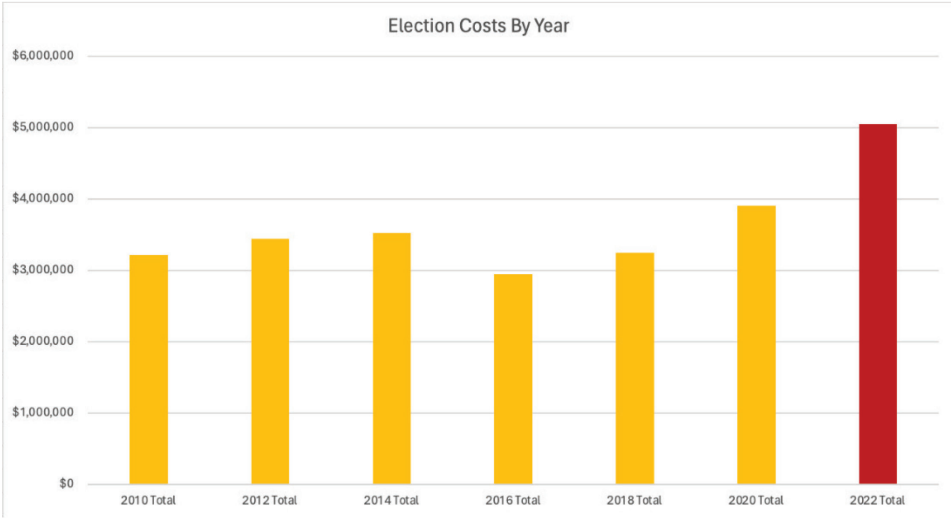
2022 RCV Election was 43% ($1,525,310.13) More Expensive than 2014 Election

2012 Total $3,438,706

2022 RCV Election was 47% ($1,613,809.13) More Expensive than 2012 Election

2010 Total $3,211,502

2022 RCV Election was 57% ($1,841,013.13) More Expensive than 2010 Election



Average Election Expenses 2010-2020 - $3,381,210.44

2022 Regular Election Costs Total $5,052,515.13

Total For RCV Implementation

$3,540,105.70

Special Election $2,500,385.58

Total RCV Implementation + Regular Election Costs + Special Election Costs = $11,093,006.41

328% Increase in Election Costs compared to elections costs from 2010-2020 which used closed primaries and plurality or FPTP voting.

RCV Election in 2022 cost the State of Alaska 328% of what a normal election costs.

The information in the image highlights the significant increase in election costs for the State of Alaska due to the implementation of Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) in 2022. Here is an expanded explanation:

Overview of Election Costs:
1. Total Costs:
- The total cost for implementing RCV, along with regular and special election costs, amounted to $11,093,006.41

2. Comparison with Previous Election Costs:
- This cost represents a 328% increase compared to the average election costs from 2010 to 2020, during which Alaska used a combination of closed primaries and plurality or First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) voting systems.

Key Points:
- Implementation Costs: Implementing a new voting system like RCV typically involves significant one-time expenses, including voter education, updating or purchasing new voting equipment, and training election officials.

- Regular Election Costs: These are the standard costs incurred during the regular election cycle, including staffing, logistics, and operational expenses.

- Special Election Costs: Any additional elections outside the regular cycle, such as run-offs or special elections, add to the total cost.

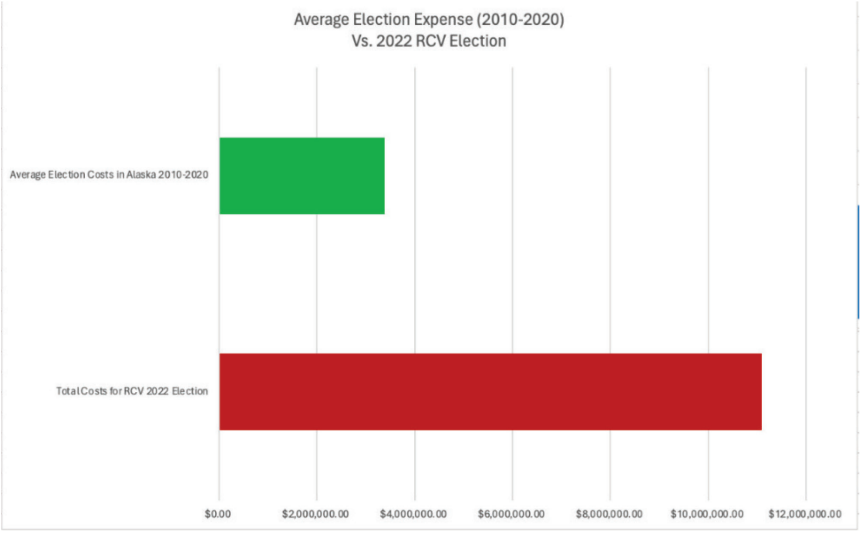
Specifics:

- 328% Increase: The 328% increase indicates that the cost of conducting elections with RCV was more than three times higher than the costs of conducting elections using the older systems over the past decade.

- Implications: While RCV can offer benefits such as reducing the need for run-off elections and ensuring majority support for elected officials, the financial implications are substantial. States or jurisdictions considering the transition to RCV need to prepare for the higher initial costs and plan their budgets accordingly.

Conclusion:

The adoption of RCV in Alaska in 2022 resulted in significantly higher election costs. This increase underscores the financial investment required to transition to and implement a new voting system. Although the long-term benefits of RCV might justify these costs, it is essential for policymakers and stakeholders to be aware of and plan for the financial implications.



CHAPTER 2.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Total For RCV Implementation $3,540,105.70

What is Rank Choice Voting? & History

Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) is a voting system that allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference on the ballot. It has garnered significant interest in recent years and has been adopted by various countries, each with its distinct version of the system. Early adopters of RCV, such as Australia and Ireland, utilize variations known as the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.

In the United States, Maine became the first state to use RCV in federal elections, starting with the congressional election in 2018. It expanded to include the first-ever ranked-choice presidential primary in 2020. The RCV system used in Maine is an example of Instant-Runoff Voting (IRV). Voters can rank as many candidates as they want, and if a candidate receives more than 50% of first-place votes, they win. If no candidate

secures a majority, a vote reallocation (often termed 'exhausted') process takes place.

The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their supporters' votes are redistributed to their second choice. RCV presents some practical challenges. Its implementation might confuse certain voters, resulting in a significant number of spoiled or incorrectly filled ballots. Insufficient understanding and implementation of RCV can undermine its effectiveness and discourage policymakers from supporting such reform efforts. Additionally, little empirical evidence exists regarding the financial impact of RCV on election budgets, leaving election administrators ill-equipped to effectively implement this reform.

This book endeavors to delve into and offer insights on the implementation and financial repercussions of RCV. By analyzing election cost data from municipalities that have adopted RCV within the past 20 years, we seek to uncover the monetary costs and benefits associated with this voting system. Through this, we aspire to enhance the comprehension of RCV's implications and potential, advancing the quest for more democratic electoral systems.

Alaska Experience: An Analogy for Ranked Choice Voting

In the US House Election in 2022, Alaska encountered an intriguing scenario. Although the majority of the state voted for a Republican candidate, a Democrat took office. To provide some context, it's akin to not receiving one's preferred flavor of ice cream. While pistachio ice cream might not be undesirable, most people wouldn't select it as their top choice. This analogy sheds light on the principle of Ranked Choice Voting

and how it can yield results that don't necessarily reflect the majority's preferences.

Why did Alaskans vote for Ranked Choice Voting in 2020?

What were the reasons behind Alaskans' support for Ranked Choice Voting in 2020? We'll begin by examining the wording of the original Ranked Choice Voting Citizen's Initiative, which received significant funding from out-of-state sources. Before gaining approval from the Supreme Court after their original ballot initiative was declined by the State of Alaska for violating the “One Subject” Rule regarding ballot initiatives Typically, a citizen's initiative is restricted to one subject to guarantee concise and clear wording that adheres to the maximum character limit.

The ballot measure strongly highlighted issues of dark money and campaign finance reform, adding to the confusion and frustration linked to Ranked Choice Voting. We derived these insights from numerous discussions with poll watchers, volunteers, and voters who voiced their bewilderment regarding the ballot question and the voting procedure.

In subsequent chapters, we will delve deeper into the nuances of Ranked Choice Voting, analyzing its ramifications and influence on election results. By comprehending the Alaska scenario and positioning it within the larger conversation.

History of Rank Choice Voting

Ranked Choice Voting has been attempted 85 times since the progressive era of our country. As Winston Churchill wisely stated in 1948, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." People, businesses, and

governments are all prone to making mistakes. Recognizing these errors and rectifying them can be a time-consuming process. However, when the issues are widely recognized and documented, turning a blind eye is not a viable option.

It's crucial to take lessons from past implementations and challenges of Ranked Choice Voting to ensure that the system's benefits are realized without inadvertently introducing new issues. Historical retrospection allows us to see patterns, benefits, and pitfalls, and equips us to make more informed decisions about its adoption and application in the present day. Ignoring the potential pitfalls, especially when they are well-documented, runs the risk of undermining the integrity and effectiveness of the electoral process. Therefore, a holistic understanding of its historical context is imperative for a balanced perspective on its future applications.

"The Case Against Ranked Choice Voting" by Jason Snead & Trent England

In Jason and Trent's book "The Case Against Ranked Choice Voting they give a great overview of the history of RCV, we do encourage readers of this book to also read their book. They are subject matter experts on election integrity issues plaguing our country and I feel it is important to give credit to some great minds in elections. They travel regularly to do presentations and setup election integrity events all over the country. I have personally seen both of them do many presentations and I believe they are working hard for all Americans to make it "Easy To Vote, and Hard to Cheat" as Jason Snead regularly says. Their book is referenced in the bibliography as well.

"More Parties, No Parties"

Here is a summary of the key points from the Book:

- The book examines electoral reform politics in the United States, specifically the push for single transferable vote (STV) proportional representation in the early 20th century.
- STV advocates target two constituencies: those who want proportional party representation in legislatures, and those who want candidates to seek votes across party lines ("weak partisanship"). These goals conflict.
- In practice, STV systems around the world tend to enable proportionality but hinder cross-party voting.
- Many current STV proposals would not let parties nominate slates, instead using nonpartisan primaries. This aims to prevent parties controlling nominations but makes party organization difficult.
- The book argues reform happens when coalitions shift, often during realignment periods when new parties gain support. Incumbents rarely reform but outsider groups can build reform coalitions.
- The history focuses on STV adoption in 24 U.S. cities c.1915-45, then repeal in all but one. Reformers used cities as demonstration sites but needed PR at higher levels.
- The legacy includes nonpartisan ballots, at-large elections, and small city councils, which trace to the old reform movement.
- Here is an updated summary including those details:

- The book argues reformers were promoting STV in the first place because crucial allies opposed political parties in general. Among them were proponents of other ranked-ballot systems adopted in at least 61 places from 1905-25.

- Working with this anti-party group helped get STV passed initially. But the reforms were not stable, and reformers found they needed parties after all.

- Several legacies of the old movement still shape American politics today: nonpartisan ballots, small city councils elected at-large under "winner-take-all" rules, and winners who often come from a "good government" slate.

- Many such features appeared in cities that never tried STV and came to be seen as voter suppression devices. The old reform movement helped spread them, even to places that did not directly adopt STV.

Australia, Ireland, Canada – STV / RCV how the system is gamed

Understanding that Australia has used STV / RCV for nearly 100 years. We need to understand a couple differences between these countries and more diverse countries like the United States. A couple big differences between Australia, Ireland, Canada, and the United States.

Australia:

Australia has used the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system for over a century. STV was introduced in Australia in the early 20th century as a means to elect members to the Senate, the upper house of the Australian Parliament. The first federal election in which STV was used was in 1919.

Since then, STV has been the primary voting system for electing senators in Australia.

In addition to the federal level, several Australian states also use the STV system for various parliamentary and local government elections. Some states have been using STV for their upper houses, while others use it for local council elections or other legislative bodies.

The STV system is known for its proportional representation and preference voting, which allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. It provides a way for voters to have more say in the election outcome and allows for a diversity of candidates and parties to be represented in parliament. Over the years, STV has become an integral part of Australia's electoral process and has been widely accepted as a fair and effective voting system in the country.

Ireland:

Almost every election held on the island of Ireland uses the Single Transferable Vote (STV), also known as Ranked Choice Voting. Except for the elections for the 18 Westminster seats from Northern Ireland, every other election, on both sides of the border, uses this system. The Republic of Ireland has employed STV successfully for over a century. But what prompted Ireland to abandon First Past the Post?

The final UK general election in Ireland to utilize First Past the Post was conducted in 1918. This was the first opportunity in eight years for the Irish populace to express their electoral voice because of the First World War. The outcome signaled a pivotal shift in Irish politics, marked by the decline of the Irish Parliamentary Party, which had been the primary political force since the 1880s, and the rise of Sinn Féin.

With First Past the Post, Sinn Fein secured a significant victory – capturing 73 out of 105 seats (69.5%) with just 47% of the total votes. At that period, the 'question of Ireland' was a hot topic, and no UK prime minister desired to be responsible for 'losing' Ireland. To counter the burgeoning independence movement, the government enacted the 1919 Local Government Act of Ireland. Given the advantages First Past the Post conferred upon Sinn Fein, this act approved the utilization of proportional representation, specifically STV, in local elections. With STV, larger wards would elect a group of representatives, leading to results that more accurately reflected the voters' preferences.

The act aimed to curb Sinn Fein's disproportionate seat acquisition. However, rather than resisting, Sinn Fein embraced this development, aligning it with their broader mission of empowering the Irish people. Notably, Arthur Griffith, the founder of Sinn Féin, had earlier lauded the establishment of the Proportional Representation Society of Ireland in 1911.

STV was first put to the test at a local level during the 1919 Sligo by-election. The Irish Times heralded its success, describing it as a "thoroughly workable system" and the "Magna Carta of political and municipal minorities". In 1920, STV was used for local polls and incorporated into the Government of Ireland Act. While the House of Commons of Southern Ireland soon became obsolete due to events in the War of Independence, STV's relevance in Irish politics was growing.

Following its independence, the Irish Free State implemented STV for its 1922 elections. This system was subsequently embedded in the Irish Constitution through a public referendum on 1 July 1937. Whenever

challenges arose against STV, they were defeated. For instance, two referendums, one in 1959 and another in 1968, proposed reverting to the FPTP system. Both proposals were defeated by the Irish public, with the latter being rejected by a decisive 61% to 39%. This experience in the Republic of Ireland resonates globally – once people acclimatize to a proportional electoral system, there's limited inclination to revert to First Past the Post.

The Irish Free State, which later evolved into the Republic of Ireland, introduced STV for its inaugural parliamentary elections in 1922. This method aimed at achieving proportional representation and facilitating fair, democratic elections. STV permits voters to rank candidates sequentially, allocating seats through a quota mechanism. Candidates reaching the required vote quota are elected, and any excess votes they acquire are shifted to those ballots' subsequent preferences.

If no candidate meets the quota, the lowest-ranking candidate is excluded, and their votes are reallocated to the next preferences. This cycle continues until all positions are occupied. STV's implementation in Ireland is widely perceived as a success, fostering a diverse political landscape and granting voters a significant role in the electoral procedure. It has played a key role in cultivating a multi-party system in Ireland, solidifying its place in the nation's democratic heritage.

Canada:

Canada uses a first-past-the-post (FPTP) system for its parliamentary elections, wherein the candidate securing the most votes in an electoral district wins, irrespective of achieving an absolute majority. Notably, some provinces and territories, including British Columbia (BC), have adopted

variants of the ranked choice voting (RCV) system for specific local elections. BC, for instance, has used the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method for provincial elections, though it was subsequently repealed following a 2009 referendum.

In the 2009 BC elections, the populace was presented with a choice to revolutionize their electoral system via the BC-STV proposal. This system would restructure BC into fewer, larger ridings, each having multiple representatives. Voters would rank their preferred candidates on more extensive ballots. A successful transition to this system needed a 60% approval rate. Given that the 2005 referendum nearly achieved this threshold at 57.69%, the government reintroduced the proposal in 2009.

Under the current system, BC's 85 ridings allow the candidate with the most votes to represent that region in government. In contrast, BC-STV would permit voters to rank multiple candidates across parties or support an independent. Instead of one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) representing a particular riding, the BC-STV system would designate multiple MLAs for broader districts. For instance, the Kootenays would be represented by the top four vote-receiving candidates, irrespective of party affiliations.

The motivation behind the BC-STV system was a unanimous decision by the B.C. legislature in 2004 to form a Citizen's Assembly to explore voting reforms. After extensive research and public consultations, the assembly recommended the STV system. In the 2005 referendum, while BC-STV secured 58% support, it fell short of the required 60%. As a result, the question was posed again in the May 2009 elections.

Advocates for the BC-STV system argue it ensures a higher percentage of voters have a representative they voted for in the legislature. Opponents, however, view it as convoluted, with concerns about diluting accountability in larger ridings. Ultimately, in the 2009 referendum, 39.09% supported the BC-STV, while 60.91% favored retaining the FPTP system.

United States:

The United States first used instant runoff voting (IRV), also known as ranked choice voting (RCV), in certain local elections. The implementation of IRV in the U.S. began in the early 21st century.

One notable example of early IRV usage was in San Francisco, California. San Francisco adopted IRV for its municipal elections in 2004, becoming one of the first major cities in the United States to use this voting system. IRV was used in San Francisco's mayoral elections and some other local contests.

Since then, several other cities across the United States have adopted or experimented with ranked choice voting for various local elections. Additionally, some states have considered implementing IRV for statewide elections, but the adoption of new voting methods at the state level can be more complex and may require changes to state constitutions or laws.

Advocates for Rank Choice Voting push the idea of RCV on people without addressing the potential issues that RCV could cause. We use an analogy of a medicine bottle. When you get prescribed medication, there is a label on the side of the bottle that lists the potential side effects of the medication. You are also warned about potential combinations that may be harmful, or even deadly. The more research we do into RCV, the more

we recognize the sheer arrogance and ignorance the Pro-RCV groups show towards the common man.

They don't want to tell you what the potential issues are, because if they do, you won't vote for it. It is important for medication bottles to have a warning label. Medication is a personal decision, and it mostly impacts one person or a family. Completely modifying an election system is very drastic and it impacts large groups of people, various demographic groups are impacted disproportionately. The Pro-RCV groups and funders after I brought these points up to them, they claim that it will get better over time. They do acknowledge that RCV has issues if you really press them and ask specific questions.

Does It Get Better Over Time?

From the research we have done, spanning over two decades, we have found that the issues we bring up in this book seem to be very common issues that are associated with Rank Choice Voting.

1. Ballot Confusion
2. Ballot Complexity
3. Exhausted Ballots
4. Confused Voters
5. Long Ballots
6. Extended Delays Getting Results
7. Various Demographics Have Higher Error Rates Using RCV
8. Various Demographics Have More Exhausted Ballots Than Others

Looking at the potential issues with Rank Choice Voting. We have to understand the system is not new. It has been in use in Australia for over 100 years. It has been used in San Francisco since 2004. Our research has

shown that many of the places that have used Rank Choice Voting, have abandoned the system and have gone back to the easily understood plurality voting system.

Our research has shown the same ballot issues that we address in San Francisco in 2011, show up in Oakland in 2022. Unfortunately for most of the results we have seen. They bury Error Rates and even how various demographics fill out their ballots. They also do not breakdown the exhausted ballots category, which should contain many clues to how bad RCV really is. One of the key pieces to pay close attention to is how many people are only filling out their candidate selections by choosing 1 candidate per race. This statistic is important to know how many people are potentially filing out their ballots incorrectly.

Many older voters may also vote like a survey if given the opportunity to select multiple candidates. For example, imagine your grandmother giving you and your cousin a ranking. She may rank you both with the same scores. If our elderly can make these two very simple mistakes, there are most likely many other demographic groups that could be impacted.

Other groups that could be impacted

English as a second language
Low Information Voters
Low Education Voters
First Time Voters
New Citizens

The arrogance and ignorance of Pro-RCV groups again plays out when we discuss these various demographics groups. I have heard Pro-RCV groups claim that I need "Teach Our Grandparents and Parents how to Use RCV"

also claiming that people who do not understand Rank Choice Voting are "stupid."

Ranked Choice Software, Where Does It Come From and Who Makes It?

In the 2023 Election is Arlington, Virginia. The software and hardware used were not compatible with have upwards of 6 candidates. The Rank Choice Voting software used came from a Pro-RCV group known as the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center. This software does not need to be certified since it is exclusively a Ranked Choice Voting tabulator. How are we as voters supposed to trust election outcomes when the very software the election office may use, is not certified, and is provided by Pro-RCV groups?

In Oakland in 2022, the original winner was declared. Another Out of State Pro-RCV group known as FairVote wanted a particular candidate to win. They reached out to the election office and told them that the election office used the wrong settings on the tabulation software.

The election office took the advice from FairVote, FairVote's candidate did not initially win. After reaching out to the election office, the candidate they wanted to win. Did. Who made the Ranked Choice Voting software for Oakland? What company made it? Is it certified? If FairVote's candidate won in the first place, would they have reached out to Oakland's election office to let them know about the software settings, or was this primarily because the candidate they supported lost?

Arrogance, Ignorance, Elitist Mentality, Software that is not 3rd party certified

Our elections cannot be ran by software that is provided by potentially biased sources. We need to make sure any software that is used for any election needs to have a 3rd party certification proving that the software works. Let's use the Ocean Gate Titan Sub for a great example and analogy for.

If Ocean Gate Titan Sub was certified by a 3rd party source, the likelihood that the Sub would have failed the way it did, is unlikely. The goal of this book is to make sure you are aware of how your election can end up like the Ocean Gate Titan if you allow experimental systems to take over and software that is not certified for accuracy. When our elections are no longer certified or understandable, more and more voters will stop showing up at the polls.

Alaskans had 4 elections in 2022, the first time using a Jungle Primary and Ranked Choice Voting, they had a special primary, a special general, a regular primary, and a regular general. U.S. Representative Don Young passed away in 2022 after 50 years of service to Alaska.

Due to Ballot Measure 2 and the election changes that Ranked Choice Voting was also a part of, included the Jungle Primary, Campaign Finance changes, and how representatives that die or need to be replaced, are no longer appointed by the Governor. They had to win a special election, which was postponed by months, so Alaskans were not represented by their U.S. Congressional Representative for multiple months.

Due to the complexity of Ranked Choice Voting, it was determined that the Division of Elections Violated State Law by removing U.S. House Candidate Al Gross from the ballot. He had dropped out after the deadline, if Al Gross were on the ballot as the Alaska Supreme Court claimed he should have, then Mary Peltola would have most likely been eliminated in the first round of voting. The Division of Elections didn't even understand Rank Choice Voting and how the rules worked.

This also leaves open the possibility that the Division of Elections, specifically someone within the Division of Elections knew exactly what they were doing when they removed Al Gross from the U.S. Congressional ballot. Either option is not good for Alaska or America. The Division of Elections should not be put in the power to make decisions like this.

The Division of Elections was not the only one who was confused on the rules about Ranked Choice Voting. Earlier we addressed that if an election system is confusing or not understandable then people will not show up. After multiple times using RCV in 2022, Alaskans decided to not show up to Vote. Alaska had the lowest voter turnout in history in 2022, we believe that the implementation of RCV and the Jungle Primary is directly correlated to the Lowest Voter Turnout in Alaska State History.

So, not only was the Division of Elections confused by RCV, so were the voters. We have met thousands of Alaskans from all around the State and we have met a literal handful that still openly support Rank Choice Voting.

Is Ranked Choice Good For 3rd Parties?

The Impact of Ranked Choice Voting on Third-Party Candidates in Alaska and Maine

The presence of third-party candidates in elections has been a topic of interest, as they offer alternative choices beyond the two major parties. However, their success has often been limited in traditional voting systems. We examine the impact of ranked-choice voting (RCV) on third-party candidates, particularly in the context of Alaska and Maine. By analyzing election data from both states before and after the implementation of RCV, we aim to understand the influence of this voting method on the participation and success of third-party candidates.

Alaska's Journey with RCV and Third-Party Candidates:

The 2022 US Senate Election in Alaska marked the implementation of RCV alongside a top 4 general election format. This change coincided with the absence of third-party candidates who were present in previous elections. We explore the factors that may have influenced third-party candidates' decision not to run, considering the challenges they faced in securing one of the top four positions. Additionally, we assess the impact of RCV on third-party candidates' ability to compete effectively.

Maine's Experience with RCV and Third-Party Candidates:

In Maine, RCV has been in use since 2018, offering insights into the relationship between this voting method and the success of third-party candidates. By analyzing election data from 2012 to 2022, we examine whether RCV has provided third-party candidates with a more viable path

to victory in Maine's state and federal elections. We compare the outcomes and trends before and after the implementation of RCV to gain a comprehensive understanding of its impact.

Comparing Alaska and Maine:

By comparing the experiences of Alaska and Maine, we can identify similarities and differences in the impact of RCV on third-party candidates. We explore factors such as the specific RCV systems used, the number of available positions, and the dynamics of the political landscape in each state. Through this comparative analysis, we aim to provide a broader perspective on the influence of RCV on third-party candidates' participation and success.

The implementation of ranked-choice voting in Alaska and Maine has sparked interest in understanding its impact on third-party candidates. By examining the absence of third-party candidates in Alaska's 2022 US Senate Election and analyzing the experiences of Maine with RCV, We aim to shed light on the influence of this voting method. By gaining insights into the specificities of RCV systems and their consequences for third-party candidates, we can assess the potential for greater representation and inclusivity in future elections.

Examining the data from the Maine Senate and House of Representatives elections from 2016 to 2022, as well as the Alaska State Senate and House elections from 2020 to 2022, there is little evidence to suggest that RCV benefits third-party candidates. In the Maine Senate, there was an increase of 7 elected Democrats and a decrease of 7 elected Republicans, with no third-party candidates winning seats during this period. Similarly, in the Maine House of Representatives, there was an increase of 5 elected

Democrats, a decrease of 5 elected Republicans, and a decrease of 1 elected Independent. These results indicate a total loss of 12 Republicans and a gain of 12 Democrats, with no significant presence of third-party candidates.

In the Alaska State Senate elections from 2020 to 2022, there was a net increase of 2 Democrats and a net decrease of 2 Republicans, while the number of independent candidates remained unchanged. In the Alaska State House elections during the same period, there was a net decrease of 1 Democrat, no change in the number of Republicans, and an increase of 1 Independent candidate. These results suggest that RCV did not lead to significant changes in the representation of third-party candidates in the Alaska State Senate and House.

The combination of the Alaska and Maine data calls into question the assumption that RCV provides a boost to third-party candidates. While it is essential to consider the specific context of each election and voting system, the absence of third-party candidates in these elections suggests that RCV alone may not be sufficient to create a favorable environment for their success.

In addition to the data previously mentioned, it is worth noting that the introduction of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in certain elections coincided with seat flips to the Democratic Party. In the 2018 Maine US House Election, which marked the first year of using RCV, a seat was flipped to the Democratic Party. Similarly, in the 2022 Alaska House Election, which also coincided with the first year of implementing RCV, a seat was flipped to the Democrats. These instances highlight specific races where RCV may have played a role in influencing the outcome and benefiting the Democratic Party.

When considering the overall impact of RCV on seat outcomes, it is essential to examine the broader picture. In the Maine State Legislature, a total of 12 Democrat seats were won during the specified period, indicating an increase in Democratic representation. Furthermore, two U.S. Congressional seats were won by Democrats in Maine, and two Alaska State Senate seats were also secured by Democrats. These victories suggest some level of success for the Democratic Party in these elections where RCV was utilized.

Ranked Choice Voting Impacts on Third-Party Candidates

Introduction:

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) is often seen as a potential solution to the limitations of plurality elections in stifling third-party involvement and restricting voter choice. Maine, with its strong independent streak, has embraced RCV in the hope of encouraging third-party participation. However, this paper argues that RCV may not necessarily improve the situation for third parties and can even perpetuate the two-party system.

The "Spoiler" Problem:

RCV proponents claim that it addresses the "spoiler" problem, where voters are hesitant to rank their favorite candidate first for fear of helping their least-favorite candidate win. While RCV offers some alleviation of this problem, it still doesn't entirely eliminate the concern. Voters may face dilemmas when ranking strong third-party candidates, potentially causing the elimination of their compromise candidate and enabling their least-favored candidate to win. Consequently, voters may still feel pressured not to rank their true favorite candidate first.

Loss of Third Parties' "Blackmail Power":

In the United States, third parties often wield influence not necessarily by winning seats but by shaping major party candidates' positions to cater to ideological minorities. However, RCV weakens this "blackmail power" of third parties. Under RCV, major party candidates can be confident of inheriting votes from ideologically similar third-party candidates eliminated in earlier rounds of tabulation. This erodes third parties' strategic leverage in pushing major parties to adopt more moderate policies.

Impact on Third-Party Candidates:

Contrary to popular belief, RCV does not necessarily empower third-party candidates. Instead, it may hurt them by diminishing their ability to influence major-party candidates and promote their policy agendas.

Conclusion:

While RCV has been heralded as an electoral reform that promotes voter choice and inclusivity, its impact on third-party candidates warrants careful consideration. The system may not entirely solve the spoiler problem and can weaken third parties' leverage to shape major-party policies.

CHAPTER 3.

OPEN PRIMARY VS. JUNGLE PRIMARY?

The Impact of Jungle Primaries on Political Parties: A Critical Analysis

Chapter 5: The Impact of Jungle Primaries on Political Parties

The number of candidates increased by 700% when switching from a closed primary system to a jungle primary system.

Explanation:

1. Closed Primary System with Plurality Voting (FPTP):

In a closed primary system, only registered party members can vote to choose their party's candidate.

Each party selects a single candidate through their internal primary.

This often results in fewer candidates, as only a few parties are represented.

2. Jungle Primary System:
Increased Candidate Participation with little to no support or way to win: In Alaska's first use of the Jungle Primary system, the number of candidates increased by 700% in the Special U.S. House Primary Election.

Election Costs: Jungle Primary and Ranked Choice Voting led to Alaska's most expensive election ever.

Voter Turnout: Despite 700% increase in candidates and spending more than 20x the State of Alaska budget for Voter Education, Alaska experienced the lowest voter turnout in its history with the use of ranked choice voting and the jungle primary system.

a. Introduction
Political parties are integral to democratic systems, playing a key role in candidate selection and fostering collective representation. Traditionally, closed primary elections have enabled parties to support candidates and nurture their growth within party ranks. However, the emergence of open primaries, often presented as more democratic, has sparked concerns about potential harms to political parties.

b. Closed Primary Elections and Party Support
In closed primary elections, political parties provide extensive support to candidates seeking nomination. This support includes financial backing, community outreach, and other resources designed to enhance the candidate's electoral success. Such support allows grassroots candidates to build their reputations within the party, leveraging the party's established infrastructure and member base.

c. The Advent of Jungle Primaries

Open primaries, especially those using a Top 2, Top 4, Top 5, or Top 6 system, represent a significant departure from the closed primary model. Often referred to as jungle primaries, these elections require candidates to secure substantial financial backing before entering the race. This emphasis on early financial support can marginalize the influence of small donors and grassroots candidates.

d. Impact on Small Donors and Grassroots Candidates

The shift towards jungle primaries has reshaped the electoral landscape, making it more dependent on large donors such as businesses, wealthy individuals, and unions. The need for substantial financial support compels candidates to prioritize the interests of these influential contributors. Consequently, candidates may become beholden to the preferences and agendas of major donors, potentially neglecting the concerns of small donors and party members.

e. Implications for Political Party Dynamics

The growing influence of large donors in jungle primaries disrupts traditional power dynamics within political parties. Candidates who rely on external financial support may become less dependent on party infrastructure and membership, undermining the party's ability to shape the candidate pool and select representatives aligned with its values and principles.

f. Case Study: Alaska's Jungle Primary in 2022

In the special jungle primary election in Alaska, the initial results showed only 10.1% of the vote for Peltola, 27% for Palin, and 19.1% for Republican Nick Begich, with Al Gross placing third at 12.6%. When

combining the votes for all Republican candidates, the total Republican vote was 56.7%. This pattern repeated in subsequent elections, with the combined Republican vote consistently surpassing individual candidates' percentages.

Alaska's experience illustrates how jungle primaries can lead to strategic manipulation and dilute party influence. Candidates expended more resources attacking fellow party members than opposing candidates from other parties, undermining party unity and strategic coherence.

g. The Negative Campaign Impact

Throughout these four elections, the top Republican candidates spent more time and money attacking each other than the Democrat in the race. This challenges the claim that ranked-choice voting fosters a more civil electoral environment, as evidenced by examples from Alaska and Maine.

h. Conclusion

The shift towards jungle primaries, especially those using a Top 2, Top 4, Top 5, or Top 6 system, presents significant challenges for political parties. The increased emphasis on securing substantial financial support prior to entering the primary election can marginalize small donors, hinder grassroots candidates, and create a reliance on major donors with potentially conflicting interests. Policymakers and party leaders must understand these dynamics as they consider the implications of jungle primaries and strive to balance candidate independence with party cohesion.

By highlighting these issues, it becomes evident that jungle primaries pose significant risks to the health of political parties and democratic systems as a whole.

Alaska's Experience with Jungle Primary in 2022

In the special Jungle Primary election in Alaska, the initial results showed that only 10.1% of the vote went to Peltola, 27% to Palin, and 19.1% to Republican Nick Begich, Al Gross placed in 3rd with 12.6%. In this race since it was a Jungle primary we combined all the votes for a Republican,

including candidates that did not make the Top 4 General. Combining Palin (27%), Begich (19.1%), Sweeney (5.9%), Coghill (2.4%), and Revak (2.3%) we get 56.7%.

Please note that Al Gross was removed from the ballot after dropping out, please see Alaska section to explain the Supreme Court's ruling on this matter.

This same pattern repeated itself in the Special Top 4 General, (Palin 31.3%, Begich 28.5%, Peltola 40.2%) Republican total vote 59.8%, Regular Primary (Palin 30.2%, Begich 26.2%, Peltola 36.8%, Sweeney 3.8%) Total Republican vote 61% including candidates that did not make the Top 4 General, and Regular Top 4 General (Palin 25.8%, Begich 23.6%, Peltola 48.7%, Bye 1.9%) Total Republican vote 49.4%. Though closer than the Special Primary, Special General, and Regular Primary, the turnout by percentage was the lowest in history. I personally voted in the Special Primary through the Regular Primary, but I did not vote in the Regular General Election, primarily because I felt I already knew the result and partly due to voter exhaustion.

Throughout these 4 elections the two top Republican candidates spent more time and money attacking each other than they did attacking the Democrat in the race. The claim that Rank Choice Voting is more civil should be questioned considering Alaska and Maine's examples that we address in this book.

Looking at Alaska again and looking at the Lisa Murkowski and Kelly Tshibaka race we see that the same pattern of Republicans attacking Republicans is also featured prominently in this race. From the early part

of 2022 throughout the year Kelly Tshibaka and Lisa Murkowski were attacking each other, which is quite normal for most elections, though in 2022 due to the Jungle Primary and Rank Choice Top 4 General Election, the attacks against fellow Republicans, which would normally end when the Closed Republican Primary was over, continued after August, all the way until Election day in November.

The negative campaign ads were mostly directed from one Republican to another Republican, considering in this race the Democrat only received 10.7% of the total General Election votes, we are surprised that so many Democrats support Rank Choice Voting in Alaska. This was the worst performance by a Democrat in a U.S. Senate Election in all of Alaska's recorded history. In the 2020 U.S. Senate Election 41.2% voted for a Democrat and 53.9% voted for a Republican. In 2022, 89.3% voted for a Republican and only 10.7% voted for a Democrat.

In 2 years, Alaska's GOP was able to get 30.5% of the Democrat Voters to vote for a Republican, pretty amazing. This calls into question the claim that Rank Choice Voting can not be gamed. This looks like pretty obvious gaming in this authors opinion.

If gaming or manipulating the electoral system is possible in elections, it can have several effects on voters:

1. Disillusionment: When voters perceive that the electoral system can be gamed or manipulated, it can lead to a sense of disillusionment and loss of faith in the democratic process. They may feel that their votes don't truly matter if the system can be manipulated to produce predetermined outcomes.

2. Strategic voting: The possibility of gaming elections can lead to strategic voting, where voters may not necessarily vote for their preferred candidate but instead vote strategically to prevent certain outcomes or manipulate the system themselves. This can distort the true expression of voters' preferences.

3. Voter suppression: If voters believe that the electoral system is vulnerable to gaming, it may discourage some individuals from participating in the electoral process altogether. They may feel that their votes will not have an impact or that the system is rigged against them, leading to reduced voter turnout and potentially disenfranchising certain groups.

4. Weakening of democracy: If the electoral system can be easily gamed, it undermines the principles of fairness, transparency, and equal representation that are crucial to a healthy democracy. This can erode trust in democratic institutions and lead to a decline in overall democratic governance.

It is important for electoral systems to be designed in a way that minimizes the potential for gaming or manipulation, ensuring that the voice of the voters is accurately reflected and their confidence in the democratic process is maintained.

CHAPTER 4.
SPECIAL JUNGLE PRIMARY

Special Election $2,500,385.58

The number of candidates increased by 700% when switching from a closed primary system to a jungle primary system.

Overview of Election Types and Systems

The recent election cycle included Special Primary, Special General, Regular Primary, and Regular General elections, each with distinct rules. Notably, both the Special General Election and the Regular Primary were held concurrently. The Special General Election used a Top 4 Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) system, while the Regular Primary used a simpler system where voters selected one candidate.

Complexity of Simultaneous Elections

Holding the Special General Election (with a Top 4 RCV system) and the Regular Primary (select one candidate system) simultaneously added significant complexity. Voters received a single ballot for both

elections, leading to potential confusion. Many voters likely misapplied the Regular Primary's instructions to the Special General Election.

Voter Confusion and Election Outcomes

The confusion was reflected in the election results. In the Special General Election, a Democrat won with 75,000 votes, despite Republicans collectively receiving 112,000 votes. This suggests that voters might have followed the Regular Primary's instructions and voted for only one candidate in the Special General Election, undermining the effectiveness of the RCV system.

Introduction of Ranked Choice Voting

The introduction of RCV added another layer of complexity for Alaskan voters. Many were unfamiliar with RCV mechanics, which require ranking candidates by preference. The new voting system, coupled with dual election types on the same ballot, likely led to unintended voting behaviors and unexpected results.

Implications and Reflections

The overlap of different voting instructions and the debut of RCV significantly impacted voter behavior and election outcomes. This scenario highlights the need for clear communication and voter education, especially when implementing new voting systems. Ensuring voters understand the distinctions between concurrent elections is crucial for maintaining electoral integrity and accuracy.

Information Overload in Crowded Elections

In small elections with two or three candidates, voters can easily compare policies and make informed decisions. However, with 48 candidates, the situation becomes overwhelming:

- Volume of Information: Researching each candidate becomes impractical.

- Comparing Complexity: Comparing 48 candidates is almost impossible, making it difficult for voters to evaluate all the necessary information.

Decision Fatigue
- Mental Exhaustion: Too many options lead to decision fatigue, frustration, and impaired decision-making.

- Simplified Choices: Overwhelmed voters might resort to simplification strategies, resulting in less informed choices.

Lowered Voter Turnout
- Apathy: The number of candidates can lead to voter apathy, as some might choose not to vote, believing their vote won't make a difference.

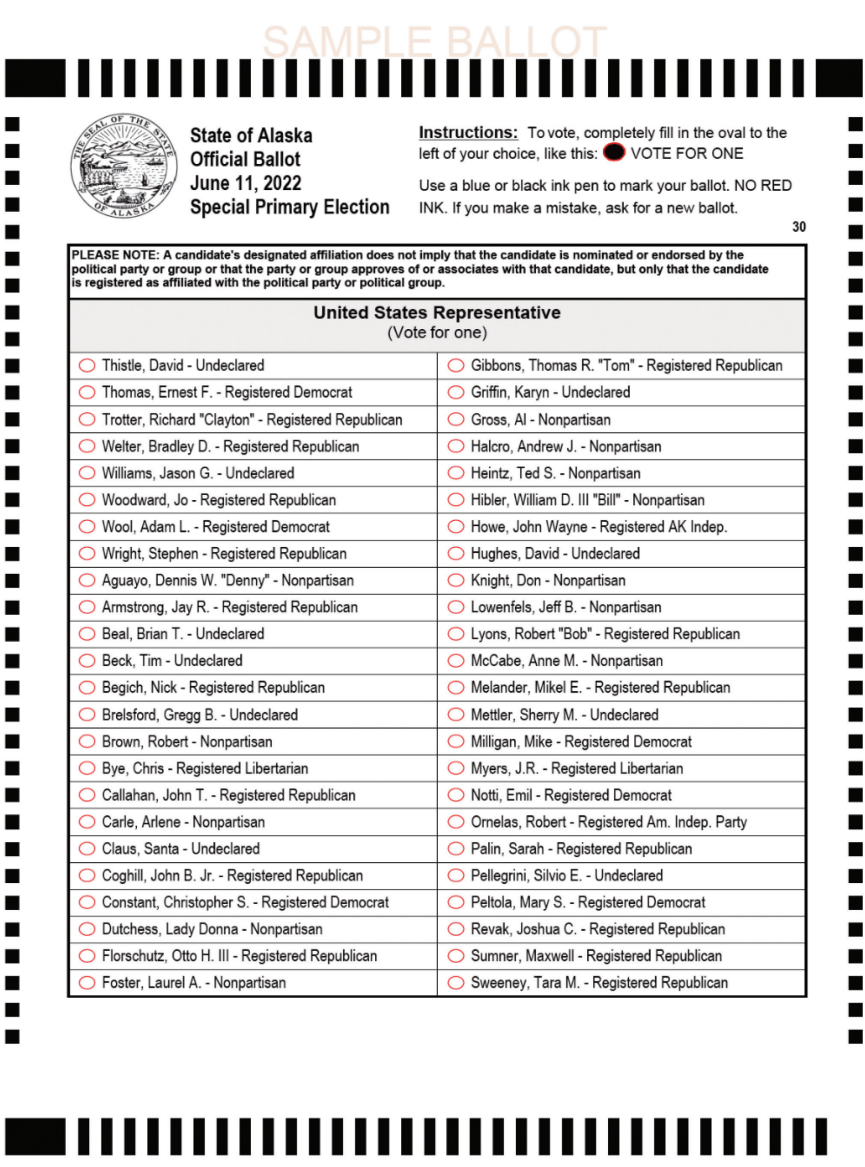
- Confusion and Errors: In a crowded race, voters are more likely to make mistakes on the ballot.

Implications for Election Outcomes
- Dilution of Votes: With many candidates, votes get diluted. A winner might only receive a small fraction of the total vote, potentially not representing the majority's preference.

- Strategic Voting: Voters may vote strategically, choosing a candidate with a better chance of winning rather than their preferred candidate, distorting the true preference of the electorate.

Practical Example
Choosing a restaurant for dinner is easy with two or three options, but overwhelming with 48. You might give up, choose a familiar place, or

randomly pick. Similarly, too many candidates lead to information overload, decision fatigue, decreased participation, and a less representative election. This demonstrates how frustrating it can be for voters to make informed decisions in a crowded field.



SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Alaska
Official Ballot
June 11, 2022
Special Primary Election

Instructions: To vote, completely fill in the oval to the left of your choice, like this: ● VOTE FOR ONE

Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

30

PLEASE NOTE: A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political party or group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as affiliated with the political party or political group.

United States Representative
(Vote for one)

○ Thistle, David - Undeclared	○ Gibbons, Thomas R. "Tom" - Registered Republican
○ Thomas, Ernest F. - Registered Democrat	○ Griffin, Karyn - Undeclared
○ Trotter, Richard "Clayton" - Registered Republican	○ Gross, Al - Nonpartisan
○ Welter, Bradley D. - Registered Republican	○ Halcro, Andrew J. - Nonpartisan
○ Williams, Jason G. - Undeclared	○ Heintz, Ted S. - Nonpartisan
○ Woodward, Jo - Registered Republican	○ Hibler, William D. III "Bill" - Nonpartisan
○ Wool, Adam L. - Registered Democrat	○ Howe, John Wayne - Registered AK Indep.
○ Wright, Stephen - Registered Republican	○ Hughes, David - Undeclared
○ Aguayo, Dennis W. "Denny" - Nonpartisan	○ Knight, Don - Nonpartisan
○ Armstrong, Jay R. - Registered Republican	○ Lowenfels, Jeff B. - Nonpartisan
○ Beal, Brian T. - Undeclared	○ Lyons, Robert "Bob" - Registered Republican
○ Beck, Tim - Undeclared	○ McCabe, Anne M. - Nonpartisan
○ Begich, Nick - Registered Republican	○ Melander, Mikel E. - Registered Republican
○ Brelsford, Gregg B. - Undeclared	○ Mettler, Sherry M. - Undeclared
○ Brown, Robert - Nonpartisan	○ Milligan, Mike - Registered Democrat
○ Bye, Chris - Registered Libertarian	○ Myers, J.R. - Registered Libertarian
○ Callahan, John T. - Registered Republican	○ Notti, Emil - Registered Democrat
○ Carle, Arlene - Nonpartisan	○ Ornelas, Robert - Registered Am. Indep. Party
○ Claus, Santa - Undeclared	○ Palin, Sarah - Registered Republican
○ Coghill, John B. Jr. - Registered Republican	○ Pellegrini, Silvio E. - Undeclared
○ Constant, Christopher S. - Registered Democrat	○ Peltola, Mary S. - Registered Democrat
○ Dutchess, Lady Donna - Nonpartisan	○ Revak, Joshua C. - Registered Republican
○ Florschutz, Otto H. III - Registered Republican	○ Sumner, Maxwell - Registered Republican
○ Foster, Laurel A. - Nonpartisan	○ Sweeney, Tara M. - Registered Republican

1. Sarah Palin (R) - 43,601

2. Nicholas Begich (R) - 30,861

3. Al Gross (Independent) - 20,392

4. Mary Peltola (D) - 16,265

5. Tara Sweeney (R) - 9,560

6. Santa Claus (Independent) - 7,625

7. Christopher Constant - 6,224

8. Jeff Lowenfels (Independent) - 5,994

9. John B. Coghill (R) - 3,842

10. Josh Revak (R) - 3,785

11. Andrew Halcro (Independent) - 3,013

12. Adam Wool (D) - 2,730

13. Emil Notti (D) - 1,777

14. Chris Bye (L) - 1,049

15. Mike Milligan (D) - 608

16. John Howe - 380

17. Laurel Foster (Independent) - 338

18. Stephen Wright (R) - 332

19. Jay Armstrong (R) - 286

20. J.R. Myers (L) - 285

21. Gregg Brelsford (Independent) - 284

22. Ernest Thomas (D) - 199

23. Robert Lyons (R) - 197

24. Otto Florschutz (R) - 193

25. Maxwell Sumner (R) - 133

26. Richard Trotter (R) - 121

27. Anne McCabe (Independent) - 118

28. John Callahan (R) - 114

29. Arlene Carle (Independent) - 107

30. Tim Beck (Independent) - 96

31. Thomas Gibbons (R) - 94

32. Sherry Mettler (Independent) - 92

33. Lady Donna Dutchess (Independent) - 87

34. Robert Ornelas (American Independent Party) - 83

35. Ted Heintz (L) - 70

36. Silvio Pellegrini (Independent) - 70

37. Karyn Griffin (Independent) - 67

38. David Hughes (Independent) - 54

39. Don Knight (Independent) - 46

40. Jo Woodward (R) - 44

41. Jason Williams (Independent) - 37

42. Robert Brown (Independent) - 36

43. Dennis Aguayo (Independent) - 31

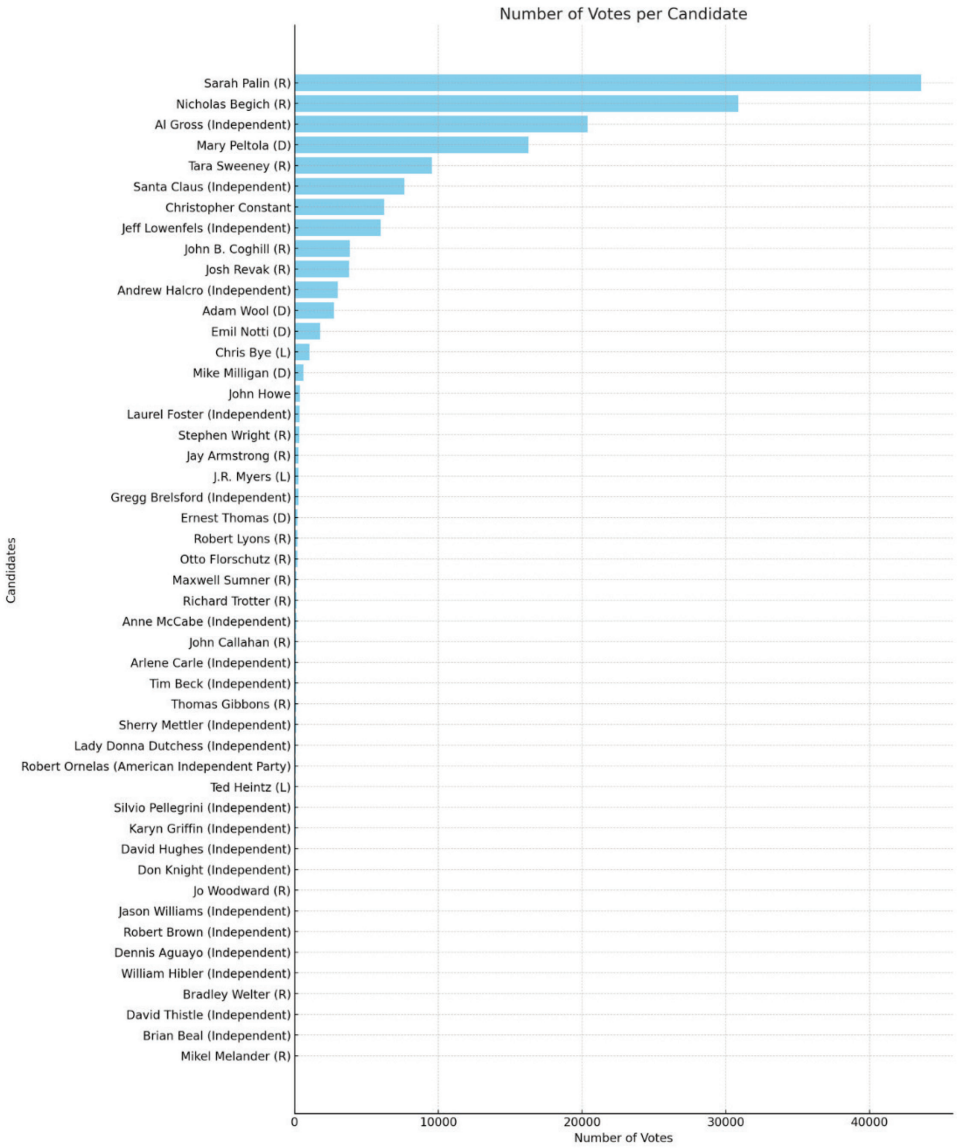
44. William Hibler (Independent) - 25

45. Bradley Welter (R) - 24

46. David Thistle (Independent) - 23

47. Brian Beal (Independent) - 19

48. Mikel Melander (R) – 17



The number of candidates increased by 700% when switching from a closed primary system to a jungle primary system.

CHAPTER 5.

SPECIAL RANKED CHOICE VOTING GENERAL

Special Election $2,500,385.58

SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Alaska Official Ballot
August 16, 2022
Special General Election

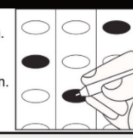
Federal Only

501

PLEASE NOTE: A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political party or group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as affiliated with the party or group.

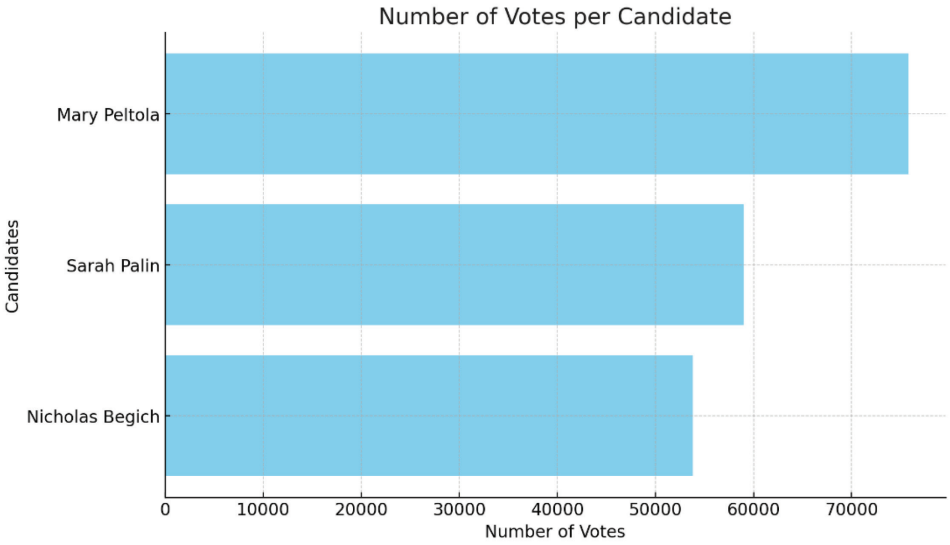
SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION - RANKED CHOICE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Rank as many or as few candidates as you like.
- Completely fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.
- For your 1st choice, fill in the oval in the 1st choice column.
- For your 2nd choice, fill in the oval in the 2nd choice column.
- For your 3rd choice, fill in the oval in the 3rd choice column, and so on.
- If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.



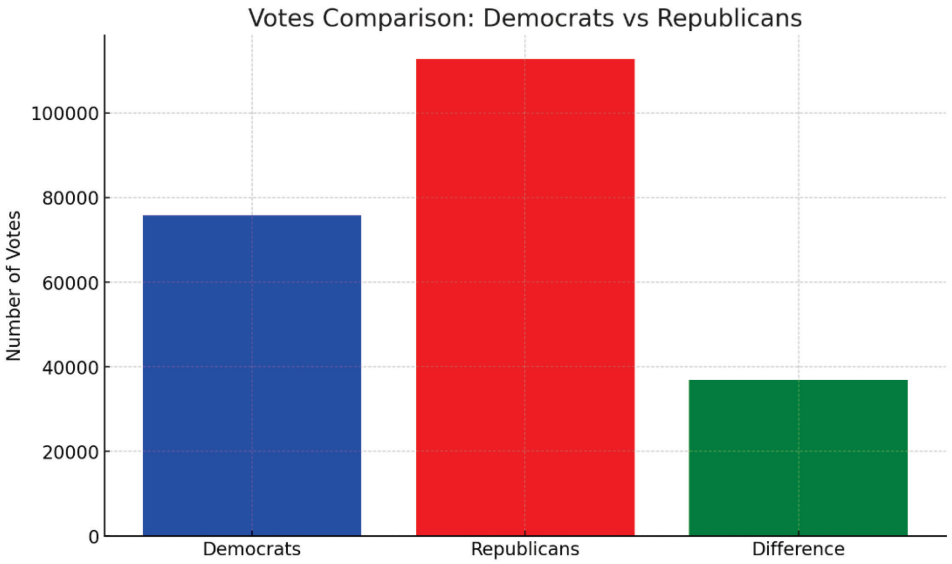
United States Representative

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
Begich, Nick (Registered Republican)	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
Palin, Sarah (Registered Republican)	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
Peltola, Mary S. (Registered Democrat)	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
Write-in:	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4



The Graph Everyone Looks At

Mary Peltola	75,799
Sarah Palin	58,973
Nicholas Begich	53,810



The Graph I See (Republicans Had A 36,984 Vote Advantage)

Democrats	75,799
Republicans	112,783
Difference	+36,984

Supreme Court Ruling:

The Impact of Al Gross's Absence from the Ballot in the Alaska U.S. House Race

The absence of Al Gross's name from the ballot in the U.S. House race in Alaska during the 2022 elections had a significant impact on the dynamics of the race, potentially leading to a split in the Republican vote.

Initially, the race featured two Republicans and two Democrats vying for the seat. However, on June 21, 2022, 56 days before the special general election and the regular primary election, Al Gross filed his withdrawal from both contests. At that time, preliminary results showed Gross with the third most votes in the special primary election, while Mary Peltola and Tara Sweeney followed in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

The Alaska Supreme Court acknowledged that the Division of Elections failed to strictly comply with election law deadlines in handling Gross's withdrawal. Under the law, unless a candidate withdraws "after the primary election and 64 or more days before the general election," their name should remain on the general election ballot. However, the Division of Elections did not adhere to this requirement, resulting in Gross's name being removed from the ballot.

The absence of Gross's name on the ballot potentially impacted the race by narrowing the field and enhancing the possibility of splitting the Republican vote. With only two Republicans and one Democrat remaining in the race, the chances of Republican voters being divided between multiple candidates increased. This scenario could have favored

the remaining Democrat candidate, potentially altering the final outcome.

Speculating on the exact outcome of the race is challenging, as it depends on various factors, including voter behavior and candidate strategies. However, Gross's absence from the ballot likely influenced the dynamics of the election, removing a significant contender and increasing the chances of a divided Republican vote.

The controversy surrounding Gross's withdrawal and the Division of Elections' failure to comply with deadlines underscores the importance of meticulous adherence to election laws and regulations. Strict compliance ensures the integrity of the election process and provides voters with a fair and accurate representation of the choices available to them.

While it is impossible to determine the exact impact of Gross's presence on the ballot, the situation highlights the significance of candidate participation in shaping the electoral landscape. It serves as a reminder that the inclusion or exclusion of candidates can have profound effects on voter decision-making and the overall outcome of the election

“The Division (of Elections) Failed To Strictly Comply With Election Law Deadlines.” Alaska Supreme Court

“On June 21, 2022 — 56 days before the special general election and the regular primary election — Dr. Al Gross filed his withdrawal from both elections. At that time, preliminary special election results indicated that Dr. Gross had the third most votes in the special primary election,

followed by Mary Peltola with the fourth most votes and Tara Sweeney with the fifth most votes.

Though the parties did not raise the issue of Dr. Gross's name being removed from the special general election ballot, we are troubled by the Division's apparent failure to abide by the statute and its own regulations in this regard. Under our interpretation of AS 15.25.100, unless a candidate withdraws "after the primary election and 64 or more days before the general election," the Division "shall place on the general election ballot only the names of the four candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for an office." This language makes clear that, had the Division strictly followed the law, Dr. Gross's name should have remained on the special general election ballot. Similarly, under 6 AAC 25.210(b), the 64-day replacement deadline applies to removing a withdrawn candidate's name from the general election ballot. Abiding by this regulation would have required the Division to leave Dr. Gross's name on the ballot" – Alaska Supreme Court April 28th, 2023

CHAPTER 6.

REGULAR JUNGLE PRIMARY

2022 Regular Election Costs Total $5,052,515.13

2022 U.S. Senate Election

380% increase in candidates from the 2020 U.S. Senate Election Primaries

1. Lisa Murkowski (R)
   45.0%, Votes: 85,794

2. Kelly Tshibaka (R)
   38.5%, Votes: 73,414

3. Patricia Chesbro (D)
   6.8%, Votes: 12,989

4. Buzz Kelley (R)
   2.1%, Votes: 4,055

5. Pat Nolin (R)
   1.1%, Votes: 2,004

6. Edgar Blatchford (D)
   1.0%, Votes: 1,981

7. Ivan Taylor (D)
   1.0%, Votes: 1,897

8. Samuel Merrill (R)
   0.8%, Votes: 1,529

9. Sean Thorne (L)
   0.7%, 1,399

10. Shoshana Gungurstein (Independent)
    0.4%, Votes: 853

11. Joe Stephens (Alaskan Independence Party)
    0.4%, Votes: 805

12. John Schiess (R)
    0.4%, Votes: 734

13. Dustin Darden (Alaskan Independence Party)
    0.3%, Votes: 649

14. Kendall Shorkey (R)
    0.3%, Votes: 627

15. Karl Speights (R)
    0.3%, Votes: 613

16. Jeremy Keller (Independent)
    0.2%, Votes: 405

17. Sid Hill (Independent)
    0.1%, Votes: 274

18. Huhnkie Lee (Independent)
    0.1%, Votes: 238

19. David Darden (Independent)
    0.1%, Votes: 198

2022 U.S. House Election

366% increase in candidates compared to the 2020 U.S. House Election Primaries

1. Mary Peltola (D) - 70,295

2. Sarah Palin (R) - 57,693

3. Nicholas Begich (R) - 50,021

4. Tara Sweeney (R) - 7,195

5. Chris Bye (L) - 1,189

6. J.R. Myers (L) - 531

7. Robert Lyons (R) - 447

8. Jay Armstrong (R) - 403

9. Brad Snowden (R) - 355

10. Randy Purham (R) - 311

11. Lady Donna Dutchess (Independent) - 270

12. Sherry Strizak (Independent) - 252

13. Robert Ornelas (American Independent Party) - 248

14. Denise Williams (R) - 242

15. Gregg Brelsford (Independent) - 241

16. David Hughes (Independent) - 238

17. Andrew Phelps (Independent) - 222

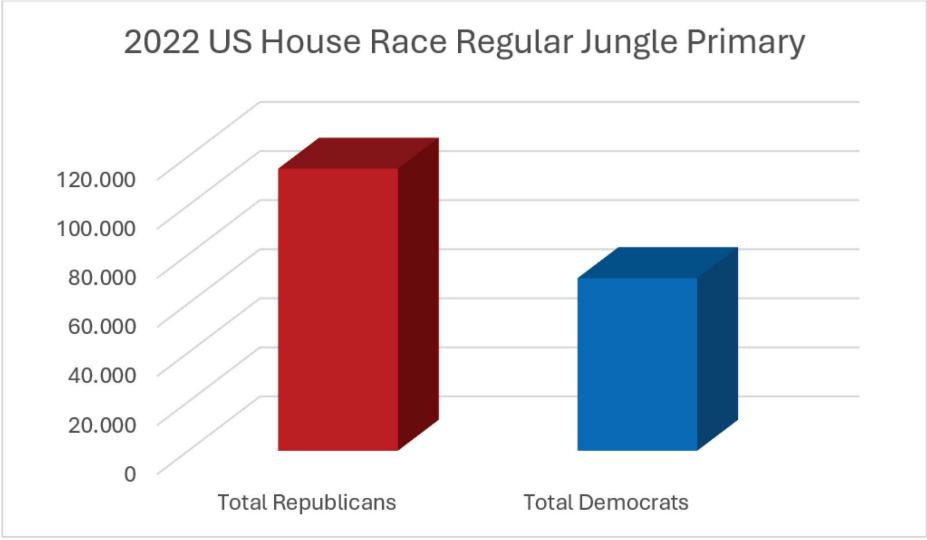
18. Tremayne Wilson (Independent) - 194

19. Silvio Pellegrini (Independent) - 187

20. Sherry Mettler (Independent) - 191

21. Ted Heintz (Independent) - 173

22. Davis LeBlanc Jr. (R) – 117


2022 US House Race Regular Jungle Primary
120.000
100.000
80.000
60.000
40.000
20.000
0
Total Republicans
Total Democrats

SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Alaska Official Ballot
August 16, 2022
Primary Election

Federal Only

501

PLEASE NOTE: A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political party or group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as affiliated with the party or group.

Primary Election - Voting Instructions

- To vote, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice, like this: ●
- Vote for one candidate only.
- Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

United States Senator
(Vote for one)

- **Blatchford, Edgar** (Registered Democrat)
- **Chesbro, Patricia R.** (Registered Democrat)
- **Darden, Dave H.** (Undeclared)
- **Darden, Dustin T.** (Registered AK Independence)
- **Gungurstein, Shoshana** (Nonpartisan)
- **Hill, Sidney "Sid"** (Nonpartisan)
- **Keller, Jeremy** (Nonpartisan)
- **Kelley, Buzz A.** (Registered Republican)
- **Lee, Huhnkie** (Undeclared)
- **Merrill, Samuel A. "Al"** (Registered Republican)
- **Murkowski, Lisa** (Registered Republican)
- **Nolin, Pat L.** (Registered Republican)
- **Schiess, John** (Registered Republican)
- **Shorkey, Kendall L.** (Registered Republican)
- **Speights, Karl W.** (Registered Republican)
- **Stephens, Joe T.** (Registered AK Independence)
- **Taylor, Ivan R.** (Registered Democrat)
- **Thorne, Sean M.** (Registered Libertarian)
- **Tshibaka, Kelly C.** (Registered Republican)

United States Representative
(Vote for one)

- **Armstrong, Jay R.** (Registered Republican)
- **Begich, Nick** (Registered Republican)
- **Brelsford, Gregg B.** (Undeclared)
- **Bye, Chris** (Registered Libertarian)
- **Dutchess, Lady Donna** (Nonpartisan)
- **Heintz, Ted** (Nonpartisan)
- **Hughes, David** (Undeclared)
- **LeBlanc, Davis L. Jr.** (Undeclared)
- **Lyons, Robert "Bob"** (Registered Republican)
- **Mettler, Sherry M.** (Undeclared)
- **Myers, J.R.** (Registered Libertarian)
- **Ornelas, Robert** (Registered Am Independent)
- **Palin, Sarah** (Registered Republican)
- **Pellegrini, Silvio E.** (Undeclared)
- **Peltola, Mary S.** (Registered Democrat)
- **Phelps, Andrew H.** (Nonpartisan)
- **Purham, Randy** (Registered Republican)
- **Snowden, Brad** (Registered Republican)
- **Strizak, Sherry A.** (Undeclared)
- **Sweeney, Tara M.** (Registered Republican)
- **Williams, Denise A.** (Registered Republican)
- **Wilson, Tremayne** (Nonpartisan)

Continue Voting on Next Side

SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Alaska Official Ballot
August 16, 2022
Special General Election

Federal Only

501

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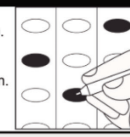
SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTION - RANKED CHOICE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Rank as many or as few candidates as you like.
- Completely fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.
- For your 1st choice, fill in the oval in the 1st choice column.
- For your 2nd choice, fill in the oval in the 2nd choice column.
- For your 3rd choice, fill in the oval in the 3rd choice column, and so on.
- If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.



United States Representative

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
Begich, Nick (Registered Republican)	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
Palin, Sarah (Registered Republican)	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
Peltola, Mary S. (Registered Democrat)	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
Write-in:	○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4

Record Turnout and Subsequent Decline

The August election in Alaska, which combined the Special General and Regular Primary, saw the highest turnout ever recorded for a primary in the state. This impressive engagement during a complex electoral process was short-lived. By November 2022, the Regular General Election experienced the lowest voter turnout in Alaska's history, hinting at a possible disillusionment among the electorate.

Impact of August Election Results on Voter Sentiment

The August election results may have significantly influenced the declining turnout in November. In the Special General Election, a Democrat won with 75,000 votes, despite Republicans collectively receiving 112,000 votes. This outcome, where the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) system split Republican votes among multiple candidates, likely left Republican voters feeling disenfranchised. Seeing a higher combined vote total fail to secure a victory could have fostered feelings of ineffectiveness and frustration within the voter base.

Voter Disenfranchisement and Distrust

The perceived disenfranchisement, especially among Republican voters, contributed to a loss of faith in the electoral process. The complexities of the RCV system and possibly misleading instructions during a highly participative primary may have exacerbated this issue. Voters who felt their votes did not impact the outcome as expected were likely less inclined to participate in future elections, believing the system did not adequately reflect their preferences.

Consequences of Voter Confusion and System Complexity

The introduction of RCV and the simultaneous scheduling of two different election types (Special General and Regular Primary) undoubtedly added layers of complexity and potential confusion. Without sufficient voter education on how RCV works and clarity in voting instructions, even well-intentioned voters might not use their votes effectively. This scenario not only impacts immediate election outcomes but can also have longer-term effects on voter confidence and engagement.

Need for Enhanced Voter Education

The stark contrast in voter turnout between August and November underscores the critical need for robust voter education campaigns. Ensuring voters understand the voting process, how their votes are counted, and the importance of each vote in different systems is essential. Clear communication and education are crucial, particularly when implementing new voting technologies or systems, to maintain the integrity and accuracy of electoral processes.

Overview of Election Types and Systems

The recent elections in Alaska included Special Primary, Special General, Regular Primary, and Regular General elections, each with distinct rules. Both the Special General Election and the Regular Primary were held concurrently. The Special General used a Top 4 RCV system, while the Regular Primary used a simpler system where voters selected one candidate.

Complexity of Simultaneous Elections

Holding the Special General Election (using a Top 4 RCV system) and the Regular Primary (select one candidate system) simultaneously added significant complexity. Voters received a single ballot for both elections, potentially leading to confusion. Many voters likely misapplied the Regular Primary's instructions to the Special General Election.

Voter Confusion and Election Outcomes

Confusion among voters was evident in the election results. In the Special General Election, a Democrat won with 75,000 votes, despite Republicans collectively receiving 112,000 votes. This suggests that

many voters might have followed the Regular Primary's instructions and voted for only one candidate in the Special General Election, undermining the effectiveness of the RCV system.

Introduction of Ranked Choice Voting

The introduction of RCV added another layer of complexity for Alaskan voters. Many were unfamiliar with RCV mechanics, which require ranking candidates by preference. The new voting system, coupled with dual election types on the same ballot, likely led to unintended voting behaviors and unexpected results.

Implications and Reflections

The overlap of different voting instructions and the debut of RCV had a profound impact on voter behavior and election outcomes. This scenario highlights the need for clear communication and voter education, particularly when implementing new voting systems. Ensuring voters understand the distinctions between concurrent elections is crucial for maintaining electoral integrity and accuracy.

Alaska's Complex Election System

Alaska's introduction of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) has come with extensive campaigns touting its benefits. However, these claims warrant scrutiny. This chapter explores the perceived drawbacks of RCV and their impact on Alaska's elections, including low voter turnout and the financial implications of implementing RCV.

Detrimental Effects of Ranked Choice Voting

RCV has raised concerns due to its impact on voters and the confusion it creates.

Impact on Individual Voters

Candidates who Lost the First Round Can Still Win: This aspect can be perplexing for voters who expect a straightforward outcome.

Delayed Results: The delay in finalizing election results under RCV has positioned Alaska poorly in terms of election timeliness.

Confusion Surrounding Ranked Choice Voting

Multiple Rounds of Voting: The complexity of RCV, with its multiple voting rounds, can bewilder voters.

Low Voter Turnout and Ballot Measure 2

Despite expectations, Alaska experienced disappointing voter participation after implementing RCV.

Financial Implications of Ranked Choice Voting Implementation

Implementing RCV in Alaska involves significant financial considerations, particularly related to electronic voting equipment.

Electronic Voting Equipment Costs

Purchase of Ballot Tabulators: The need for specialized equipment adds to the cost.

Alaska's Population Size: Given the state's small population, the investment in RCV may not be justified.

Disenfranchisement and Confusion among Voters

RCV has led to disenfranchisement and confusion, especially among older and new voters.

Negative Impact on Older and New Voters

Ballot Exhaustion: Many voters' ballots are not fully counted due to misunderstandings about how to rank candidates.

Concerns Raised by Political Figures and Election Studies

Notable political figures and election studies have highlighted various challenges with RCV.

Implementation Challenges and Fairness Concerns

The implementation of RCV has faced numerous challenges and raised concerns about fairness.

Demographic Disparities

Challenges in Low-Income and Non-White Precincts: Overvoting and other errors are more prevalent in these areas.

Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Miscounts

Recount Calls: Errors in vote counting have led to calls for recounts and have gone unaddressed.

Conclusion

The introduction of Ranked Choice Voting in Alaska has raised significant concerns about its impact on elections. Issues with voter disenfranchisement, low turnout, and financial implications have sparked critical examination of RCV.

Additionally, political figures and studies have highlighted confusion, disenfranchisement, and fairness issues. Ensuring voters are well-informed and that the electoral system is transparent, and fair is crucial for maintaining trust in democratic processes.

CHAPTER 7.

REGULAR RANKED CHOICE VOTING GENERAL

2022 Regular Election Costs Total $5,052,515.13

U.S. Senate Election

SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Alaska Official Ballot
November 8, 2022
General Election

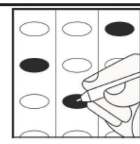
Federal Only

701

PLEASE NOTE: A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political party or group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as affiliated with the party or group.

Instructions:

- Do not use red ink or a pencil to mark your ballot.
- Rank as many or as few candidates as you like.
- Completely fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.
- For your 1st choice, fill in the oval in the 1st choice column.
- For your 2nd choice, fill in the oval in the 2nd choice column.
- For your 3rd choice, fill in the oval in the 3rd choice column, and so on.
- **If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.**

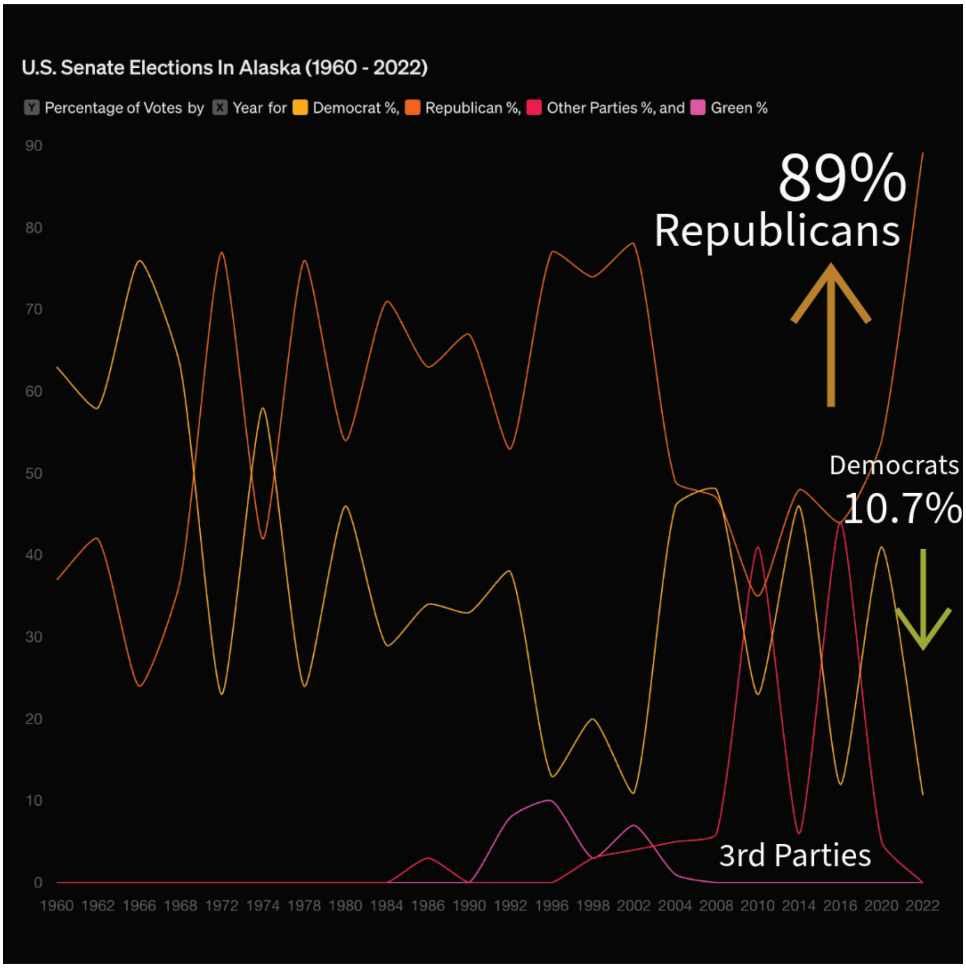


United States Senator

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Chesbro, Patricia R. (Registered Democrat)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Kelley, Buzz A. (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Murkowski, Lisa (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Tshibaka, Kelly C. (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Write-in:	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5

United States Representative

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Begich, Nick (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Bye, Chris (Registered Libertarian)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Palin, Sarah (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Peltola, Mary S. (Registered Democrat)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Write-in:	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5



Gaming

In the 2022 U.S. Senate Election in Alaska, the Democrat candidate received the lowest percentage of the vote in the state's history. The top 4 candidates were determined through a jungle primary, and ranked-choice voting was used, which eliminated third-party candidates in the general election.

Alaska experienced the lowest voter turnout in its history in 2022. This election marked the first and second use of jungle primary and ranked-choice voting in the state.

An Analysis of Alaska's Shift from Traditional Plurality Election to Ranked Choice Voting: Unveiling Potential Gaming of the Election System

This research paper examines the significant shift in voter behavior in Alaska's US Senate elections between 2020 and 2022, where the state transitioned from a traditional closed primary and plurality election to a Jungle Primary with Top 4 Ranked Choice Voting method.

The focus is on understanding the substantial swing in voter support for Democrat candidates, which experienced a dramatic decrease from 41.2% in 2020 to a mere 10.7% in 2022. The results indicate a clear example of potential gaming of the election system aimed at hindering other candidates from securing victory.

Introduction

Alaska introduced a significant electoral reform in 2022, implementing Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for the first time. This new system aimed to provide voters with more choices, mitigate the "spoiler effect," and promote candidates with broader appeal. However, the 2022 US Senate election revealed a notable shift in voter preferences, particularly among Democrat supporters. This paper delves into the factors behind this shift, exploring whether the introduction of RCV had unintended consequences.

Methodology

The research analyzes voter data from the 2020 and 2022 US Senate elections in Alaska. The 2020 election utilized a traditional closed primary and plurality voting system, while the 2022 election employed a Jungle Primary with Top 4 Ranked Choice Voting method.

The primary focus is on the performance of the Democratic candidates in both elections and the percentage shift in their voter support. The Democrat in the US Senate Election in 2022, received the lowest percentage of the vote in a US Senate Election in Alaska's History.

Results

In the 2020 US Senate election, the Republican candidate Dan Sullivan secured victory with 53.9% of the vote (191,112 votes). The Democratic candidate, Al Gross, received 41.2% of the vote (146,068 votes).

However, the 2022 election under RCV witnessed a notable change in voter behavior. Two Republicans collectively obtained 86% of the total votes cast, with 226,219 votes. The Democratic candidate, which had received significant support in 2020, experienced a dramatic decrease in voter backing, obtaining only 10.7% of the vote (28,233 votes), the lowest for a Democrat in Alaska's History.

Discussion

The striking drop of 30.5 percentage points in voter support for the Democratic candidate from 2020 to 2022 indicates a noteworthy shift in preferences. This change can be attributed to the introduction of the RCV system, which might have influenced voters' strategic behavior.

The Jungle Primary with Top 4 Ranked Choice Voting method allowed voters to rank candidates in order of preference. To block other candidates from winning, some voters may have strategically ranked only Republican candidates while leaving the Democratic candidate unranked.

This approach could potentially lead to the elimination of the Democratic candidate in the early rounds, ultimately favoring the Republican contenders in the final round. This type of strategic voting behavior by Democrats can only be explained by Gaming. Voters knew the Democrat could not beat Kelly Tshibaka they voted for Lisa Murkowski so they could make sure Kelly did not win.

Conclusion

The implementation of Ranked Choice Voting in Alaska's 2022 US Senate election resulted in an unexpected and substantial shift in voter support for Democratic candidates. The decline of 30.5% from 2020 to 2022 suggests a potential gaming of the election system by voters to prevent other candidates from winning.

Lowest Percentage of the Vote for a Democrat in a U.S. Senate Election in Alaska's History

Alaska US Senate Election Results

1. 1960
   - Democrat: 38,041
   - Republican: 21,937
   - Total: 59,978
   - Democrat %: 63%
   - Republican %: 37%

2. 1962
   - Democrat: 33,827
   - Republican: 24,354
   - Total: 58,181
   - Democrat %: 58%
   - Republican %: 42%

3. 1966
   - Democrat: 49,289
   - Republican: 15,961
   - Total: 65,250
   - Democrat %: 76%
   - Republican %: 24%

4. 1968
   - Democrat: 50,645
   - Republican: 30,286

- Total: 80,931
- Democrat %: 63%
- Republican %: 37%

5. 1972
- Democrat: 21,791
- Republican: 74,216
- Total: 96,007
- Democrat %: 23%
- Republican %: 77%

6. 1974
- Democrat: 54,361
- Republican: 38,914
- Total: 93,275
- Democrat %: 58%
- Republican %: 42%

7. 1978
- Democrat: 29,574
- Republican: 92,783
- Total: 122,357
- Democrat %: 24%
- Republican %: 76%

8. 1980
- Other Parties: 596
- Democrat: 72,007
- Republican: 84,159

- Total: 156,762
- Other Parties %: 0%
- Democrat %: 46%
- Republican %: 54%

9. 1984
- Democrat: 58,804
- Republican: 146,919
- Total: 205,723
- Democrat %: 29%
- Republican %: 71%

10. 1986
- Other Parties: 4,265
- Democrat: 49,340
- Republican: 91,705
- Total: 145,310
- Other Parties %: 3%
- Democrat %: 34%
- Republican %: 63%

11. 1990
- Democrat: 61,152
- Republican: 125,806
- Total: 186,958
- Democrat %: 33%
- Republican %: 67%

12. 1992
    - Other Parties: 467
    - Green: 20,019
    - Democrat: 92,065
    - Republican: 127,163
    - Total: 239,714
    - Other Parties %: 0%
    - Green %: 8%
    - Democrat %: 38%
    - Republican %: 53%

13. 1996
    - Other Parties:
    - Green: 23,977
    - Democrat: 29,037
    - Republican: 177,893
    - Total: 230,907
    - Green %: 10%
    - Democrat %: 13%
    - Republican %: 77%

14. 1998
    - Other Parties: 5,711
    - Green: 7,126
    - Democrat: 43,743
    - Republican: 165,227
    - Total: 221,807
    - Other Parties %: 3%
    - Green %: 3%

- Democrat %: 20%
- Republican %: 74%

15. 2002
- Other Parties: 9,369
- Green: 16,608
- Democrat: 24,133
- Republican: 179,438
- Total: 229,548
- Other Parties %: 4%
- Green %: 7%
- Democrat %: 11%
- Republican %: 78%

16. 2004
- Other Parties: 15,008
- Green: 3,039
- Democrat: 139,878
- Republican: 149,446
- Total: 307,371
- Other Parties %: 5%
- Green %: 1%
- Democrat %: 46%
- Republican %: 49%

17. 2008
- Other Parties: 18,142
- Democrat: 151,767
- Republican: 147,814

- Total: 317,723
- Other Parties %: 6%
- Democrat %: 48%
- Republican %: 47%

18. 2010
- Other Parties: 105,078
- Democrat: 60,045
- Republican: 90,839
- Total: 255,962
- Other Parties %: 41%
- Democrat %: 23%
- Republican %: 35%

19. 2014
- Other Parties: 17,524
- Democrat: 129,431
- Republican: 135,445
- Total: 282,400
- Other Parties %: 6%
- Democrat %: 46%
- Republican %: 48%

20. 2016
- Other Parties: 137,092
- Democrat: 36,200
- Republican: 138,149
- Total: 311,441
- Other Parties %: 44%

- Democrat %: 12%
- Republican %: 44%

21. 2020

- Other Parties: 17,407
- Democrat: 146,068
- Republican: 191,112
- Total: 354,587
- Other Parties %: 5%
- Democrat %: 41%
- Republican %: 54%

22. 2022

- Other Parties: 0
- Green: 0
- Democrat: 28,233
- Republican: 234794
- Total: 263027
- Other Parties %: 0
- Green %: 0
- Democrat %: 10.7
- Republican %:89.2

2022 U.S. House Election

SAMPLE BALLOT

State of Alaska Official Ballot
November 8, 2022
General Election

Federal Only

701

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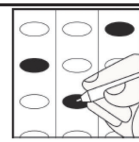
- Completely fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.
- For your 1st choice, fill in the oval in the 1st choice column.
- For your 2nd choice, fill in the oval in the 2nd choice column.
- For your 3rd choice, fill in the oval in the 3rd choice column, and so on.
- **If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot.**



United States Senator

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Chesbro, Patricia R. (Registered Democrat)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Kelley, Buzz A. (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Murkowski, Lisa (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Tshibaka, Kelly C. (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Write-in:	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5

United States Representative

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Begich, Nick (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Bye, Chris (Registered Libertarian)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Palin, Sarah (Registered Republican)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Peltola, Mary S. (Registered Democrat)	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5
Write-in:	◯ 1	◯ 2	◯ 3	◯ 4	◯ 5

Mary Peltola	128,755
Sarah Palin	68,330
Nicholas Begich	62,505
Chris Bye	4,999

Earlier we addressed that if an election system is confusing or not understandable then people will not show up. After multiple times using RCV in 2022, Alaskans decided to not show up to Vote.

Alaska had the lowest voter turnout in history in 2022, we believe that the implementation of RCV and the Jungle Primary is directly correlated to the Lowest Voter Turnout in Alaska State History.

So, not only was the Division of Elections confused by RCV, so were the voters. We have met thousands of Alaskans from all around the State and we have met a literal handful that still openly support Rank Choice Voting.

Rank Choice Voting (RCV) is often touted as a cost-effective alternative to traditional voting systems, but it is important to examine these claims with a skeptical eye. One supposed advantage is the elimination of costly runoff elections when no candidate obtains a majority in the initial round.

RCV aims to determine the majority through a ranking and elimination process, theoretically saving money on separate runoff elections. However, the actual cost savings may not be as significant as proponents suggest.

Another claim is that RCV promotes more positive campaigning and encourages candidates to appeal to a wider voter base, leading to more efficient and cost-effective campaigns.

While this may sound promising, it is unclear how consistently this occurs in practice. Negative and divisive strategies are not exclusive to traditional systems, and it remains uncertain whether RCV truly fosters a more positive campaign environment.

It is important to consider the potential drawbacks and challenges associated with implementing RCV, such as voter education and understanding the complex mechanisms of the ranking system, and potential demographics factors correlated with exhausted or spoiled ballots.

The claim that RCV increases voter turnout is not entirely substantiated. While there are some studies suggesting a positive effect on turnout, the evidence is mixed, and it is difficult to isolate the impact of RCV from other factors influencing voter participation, in some cases like Alaska using RCV for the first time, we had the lowest voter turnout in the history of our State. 44.38%.

Lastly, proponents suggest that RCV benefits third-party candidates and can provide them with a more level playing field. While this may seem appealing, it is essential to analyze the real-world implications and potential consequences for third-party representation within the RCV framework. Currently with the evidence from Maine and Alaska. There have been 12 Democrat wins in the Maine State Legislature, 1 US House Seat, Alaska 2 State Senate Seats and 1 US House Seat all using Rank Choice Voting, not including incumbent wins. Very little 3rd party success, in fact outside of 1 race in Alaska, no 3rd party success.

Claims made by RCV advocates regarding its cost-effectiveness should be critically evaluated. It is important to scrutinize the actual outcomes and consider the complexities and potential drawbacks associated with implementing RCV. In many cases expensive voter education is necessary to re-educate the people about how they need to vote. There are many cases we will bring up in this book about how demographics and ballot

exhaustion, overvotes, and undervotes, correlate. We believe that one of the key pieces of Rank Choice Voting, also hurts our most vulnerable.

Importance of Voter Education and Cost

Burden of Elimination Rounds:

Ranked choice voting (RCV) introduces a convoluted and time-consuming process of elimination rounds, which can burden the ballot counting process. In traditional plurality-based systems, election results are typically determined swiftly after the initial vote. However, RCV requires multiple rounds of tabulation, where ballots are transported to a centralized location, resulting in increased costs and vulnerability to mismanagement. The prolonged tabulation process can lead to delays in declaring the winner, raising concerns of impropriety and undermining voter confidence.

Expensive Voter Education and Training:

The implementation of RCV necessitates costly voter education campaigns and training programs, adding a significant financial burden. Unlike traditional voting systems that children are already familiar with, RCV requires extensive education efforts to teach voters how to rank candidates and understand the complex elimination process. This includes not only educating adult voters but also developing specialized programs for children and non-English speakers who may struggle to comprehend RCV. The expense associated with educating the electorate raises questions about the cost-effectiveness of implementing RCV.

Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Groups:

RCV disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including the elderly and non-English speakers. These groups may face difficulties

comprehending the intricacies of ranking candidates and navigating the elimination process. The additional barriers imposed by RCV can lead to disenfranchisement, as these individuals may struggle to participate effectively in the electoral process. The need for extensive voter education campaigns to mitigate these disparities further amplifies the financial strain associated with RCV implementation.

Increased Potential for Election Irregularities:

Instances of election irregularities have been observed in jurisdictions that have implemented RCV. San Francisco's 2011 municipal election highlighted concerns over overvoting in precincts with higher proportions of minority and progressive voters. Studies conducted in Maine and New York City revealed negative consequences associated with RCV, including increased negative campaigning, high rates of "exhausted" ballots, and confusion among voters. These issues undermine the claim that RCV improves the electoral process and raise doubts about its fairness and accuracy.

Considering the significant costs of voter education, the confusion and potential for irregularities associated with RCV, and the disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations, it is crucial to critically evaluate the supposed benefits of RCV. The burden it places on the ballot counting process, the need for expensive education campaigns, and the potential for disenfranchisement suggest that the costs and drawbacks of RCV outweigh any potential advantages.

A study had an interesting finding was that cities utilizing RCV spent significantly more on elections than cities that did not, indicating a

unique characteristic of these RCV cities that consistently increased their election expenditures.

Study Comparing Costs of RCV and Traditional Elections

The study collected data from 14 different municipalities, including a total of 239 elections, to analyze the cost of municipal elections. The election cycles were categorized based on their status as control or experimental cycles and their relative position to the implementation of Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV). Six categories were created, and the mean and standard deviation were calculated for each category.

The analysis further revealed that RCV election cycles, during the implementation phase, were on average more expensive than before implementation. RCV cities experienced a larger magnitude of average election expense increase compared to control cities during implementation election cycles.

Control cities saw an average increase of $0.23 per person, while RCV cities experienced an average increase of $0.65 per person. The $11 million that Alaska spent on RCV and Jungle Primary divided by the total number of voters in the election that featured the lowest voter turnout in history equated to $41.82 per voter.

Regarding ongoing costs of RCV elections after implementation, they aimed to determine the cost of facilitating RCV elections on an ongoing basis after the initial implementation. The regression analysis indicated that election cycles in RCV cities cost significantly more compared to control cities.

Based on the findings of the study comparing the cost differences between Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and traditional elections, several important conclusions can be drawn.

During the implementation phase of RCV, election cycles in RCV cities were found to be more expensive on average compared to before the implementation. RCV cities experienced a larger magnitude of average election expense increase compared to control cities. This suggests that the initial implementation of RCV entails additional costs that need to be considered.

The study indicates that ongoing costs of RCV elections after implementation are significantly higher compared to control cities. This finding suggests that RCV cities consistently incur higher costs in conducting elections even after the initial implementation phase.

These findings raise important concerns about the cost-effectiveness of RCV as a voting system. While RCV may offer certain advantages the study's findings suggest that these benefits may be outweighed by the increased financial burden associated with RCV.

It is crucial to critically evaluate the financial implications of implementing RCV, particularly considering the burden it places on the ballot counting process, the need for expensive voter education campaigns, and the potential for disenfranchisement of vulnerable populations.

RCV may have potential benefits, the study's findings suggest that the costs and drawbacks of RCV outweigh its advantages in terms of cost-effectiveness. Therefore, policymakers and election administrators

should carefully consider the financial implications before implementing RCV in their jurisdictions.

Information Cost Increase

The consideration of ranked choice voting at the city level in San Diego was rejected due to the perceived risks of confusing voters, increased election costs, and potential unintended consequences. Additionally, a researcher argues that the information costs of implementing ranked-choice voting would be higher compared to traditional elections, emphasizing the expenses involved in educating voters about the intricacies of the ranked-choice voting process.

These findings suggest that ranked-choice voting may not offer a more cost-effective alternative to traditional elections, particularly when accounting for the substantial investment required in voter education. As further research and exploration of ranked-choice voting continue, careful consideration of its potential costs and benefits is crucial in determining its viability as a voting system.

How Ranked Choice Voting Impacts Election Costs: A Comparative Analysis

The study collected election cost data from seven local governments that adopted RCV between 2004 and 2011. Similar data were obtained from seven control municipalities that used traditional voting methods. The selection of control municipalities was based on similarities in population, budget size, location, election cycle schedule, jurisdiction in charge of elections, and political makeup. Election costs were aggregated into standard two-year cycles and converted into per-capita costs for comparison.

Results:

The analysis focused on three categories: before, during, and after RCV implementation. Difference-in-difference regressions were conducted to identify any cost changes during and after RCV implementation. The study found that cost differences during and after RCV implementation were not statistically significant, indicating that RCV had no direct effect on the cost of elections. However, RCV jurisdictions were found to have significantly higher overall election costs compared to control cities.

Why?

RCV introduces challenges and expenses. The convoluted elimination rounds can burden the ballot counting process, and extensive voter education campaigns are required to familiarize voters with RCV. Moreover, RCV may disproportionately impact vulnerable populations and increase the potential for election irregularities.

The study concludes that while RCV does not directly impact the cost of elections during or after implementation, RCV jurisdictions consistently experience higher overall election costs compared to control cities. This suggests that the supposed cost-effectiveness of RCV needs critical evaluation. The burden placed on the ballot counting process, the expense of voter education campaigns, and the potential disenfranchisement of vulnerable populations raise concerns about the cost-benefit balance of RCV.

Policymakers and election administrators should carefully consider the financial implications before implementing RCV, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of its costs and drawbacks. Continued

research and informed decision-making are essential to ensure the integrity and efficiency of the democratic process.

Minnetonka, Alaska, and New York Experience –

The implementation of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Minnetonka, like in many other places, comes with both perceived cost savings and potential additional expenses. While RCV advocates argue that it can be more cost-effective in the long run, it is essential to consider the various factors that contribute to the overall cost of elections, including voter education.

On one hand, RCV proponents argue that it can reduce costs by eliminating the need for separate primary and runoff elections, which can be expensive to administer. In traditional elections, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a costly runoff election may be required. RCV's instant-runoff mechanism eliminates the need for such runoffs, potentially saving money.

However, the claim that RCV is inherently cheaper is not always straightforward. The initial implementation of RCV requires investment in new voting systems and technology, which can be costly. Alaska & Minnetonka, like other jurisdictions, may need to upgrade its voting equipment to accommodate RCV.

Moreover, one of the significant ongoing expenses associated with RCV is voter education. Ensuring that voters understand how to use the RCV system and rank their preferences accurately is crucial for the success of the new voting method. In places like New York and Alaska, voter education costs have been substantial.

In New York, voter education costs for the implementation of RCV in the 2021 primary election were over $15 million. In Alaska, where RCV was used in a statewide election, the state blew its voter education budget by 20-fold, spending $3.1 million solely on voter education efforts.

Minnetonka would also need to allocate funds for comprehensive voter education campaigns to ensure that residents understand how RCV works, how to rank their choices, and the overall purpose and benefits of the system. Failure to educate voters adequately could lead to confusion and even lower turnout, undermining the intended benefits of RCV, Alaska using Ranked Choice Voting for the first time had the lowest voter turnout in history at 44.38%.

Furthermore, while RCV aims to encourage candidates to appeal to a broader base of voters and reduce negative campaigning, the reality may not always align with these ideals. In competitive races, candidates may feel the need to invest more in voter outreach and education efforts to ensure their supporters understand how to use the ranked-choice ballot effectively.

In conclusion, while Ranked Choice Voting can offer potential cost savings by eliminating runoff elections, its implementation also comes with additional expenses, particularly regarding voter education. Minnetonka, like any jurisdiction considering RCV, must carefully assess the overall costs and benefits of adopting the system, including the investment required for voter education.

The Claim That Ranked Choice Voting is Cheaper can be laid to rest. It is not based on any real data, in fact it cost over a million dollars more than all previous elections since 2010 in Alaska.

Actual 2022 Alaska Election Costs
(Compared to 2010-2020)

2022 Total $5,052,515.13

2020 Total $3,910,029.20

2022 RCV Election was 29% ($1,142,485.93) More Expensive than 2020 Election

2018 Total $3,249,950.41

2022 RCV Election was 55% ($1,802,564.72) More Expensive than 2018 Election

2016 Total $2,949,870

2022 RCV Election was 71% ($2,102,645.13) More Expensive than 2016 Election

2014 Total $3,527,205

2022 RCV Election was 43% ($1,525,310.13) More Expensive than 2014 Election

2012 Total $3,438,706

2022 RCV Election was 47% ($1,613,809.13) More Expensive than 2012 Election

2010 Total $3,211,502

2022 RCV Election was 57% ($1,841,013.13) More Expensive than 2010 Election

CHAPTER 8.
FALLOUT

Total RCV Implementation + Regular Election Costs + Special Election Costs = $11,093,006.41

The ongoing debate about America's form of government often centers around whether it is a constitutional republic or a democracy. This discussion is fueled by the strong opinions of some of the nation's Founding Fathers, who were critical of pure democracy. This historical perspective resonates with contemporary movements, such as the current efforts to repeal ranked-choice voting in Alaska.

Hamilton, who tuned against the two dangerous extremes of monarchy and democracy, praised the virtue of a limited, temperate government, "as the best guardian of real liberty" because deliberative government could seek to avoid the evils of democracy—such as its ability to annul the choice of the minority. This passion is shared by some Alaskans, who fear that RCV, in allowing voters to rank the candidates in order of liked best, in fact pushes for the destruction of this state's representative democracy.

Jefferson and Adams further gave voice to democracy's failings—its bent toward self-destruction, and the need for perpetual revolution in order to counteract its stormy nature. They favored a republic—a government of solid constitution, where the law is paramount, and the minority is protected.

It forms the theoretical framework the Founders put in place, one that plays out in modern-day Alaska as Phil Izon unwittingly became one of the most passionate advocates to roll back RCV, inspired by the look on his grandfather's face when he tried to forcedly-understand the system of voting. Phil's shoe-leather campaign, run out of personal motivation and fueled by community backing, embodies the Founders' vision of active, representative constituents.

Ranked-choice voting was put into Alaska statute under serious outside dollars and outside pressure—a buy-in one too many Alaskans saw as a manipulation of their electoral system. The system's adoption resulted in record low voter turnout and controversial election outcomes that Phil and his supporters charge have compromised the state's legitimacy and electoral integrity.

Phil responded by leading a historic signature gathering effort to place Repeal of RCV on the ballot, and this is a true republican—small r—representation of citizens actively participating to influence laws that govern them. This entirely local effort is a perfect example of the republican ideal of governance by representation and local control.

Assuming the repeal campaign makes the ballot, then overcomes the current opposition, the first question becomes whether Alaska's efforts to repeal RCV would set a comparable precedent in states facing similar

electoral reforms. This story in Alaska speaks directly to the caution the Founding Fathers had with democracy. A government balanced enough to respect the majority rule, but evenly the minority rights, so all will be heard and represented-in essence, the republic they worked to establish, which Ranked Choice Voting fundamentally tarnishes forever.

1. Ballot Confusion
2. Ballot Complexity
3. Exhausted Ballots
4. Confused Voters
5. Long Ballots
6. Extended Delays Getting Results
7. Various Demographics Have Higher Error Rates Using RCV
8. Various Demographics Have More Exhausted Ballots Than Others

From research we have done, that spans over two decades, the above-mentioned are the issues that seem to be very common ones associated with Rank Choice Voting.

Quotes from Various Leaders about Ranked Choice Voting

1. President Donald Trump: @realDonaldTrump
- Former President Donald Trump expressed strong criticism of ranked-choice voting systems during a rally in Anchorage, Alaska. He specifically targeted Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski, who voted to convict him during his second impeachment trial. Trump accused her of being responsible for the state adopting ranked-choice voting, which he referred to as "ranked choice crap voting." Trump claimed that ranked-choice voting makes it difficult to determine the winner and can result in candidates with lower rankings winning the election. He referred to the system as "a total rigged deal" and compared it to other things he perceives as unfair in the country.

2. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy: @SpeakerMcCarthy
- "Someone could get the most votes, and not win!" said McCarthy. "So if you come in 3rd, you win. What? 'I got a lot of second votes, I got a lot of 3rd vote — what does that mean?'"

3. US Senator Tom Cotton: @SenTomCotton
- "Ranked-choice voting is a scam to rig elections."

- "'60% of Alaska voters voted for a Republican, but thanks to a convoluted process and ballot exhaustion—which disenfranchises voters—a Democrat 'won.'"

4. Governor Gavin Newsom: @GavinNewsom
- "Ranked choice is an experiment that has been tried in several charter cities in California. Where it has been implemented, I am concerned that it has often led to voter confusion, and that the promise that ranked choice voting leads to greater democracy is not necessarily fulfilled. The state would benefit from learning more from charter cities who use ranked choice voting before broadly expanding the system."

5. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker: @CharlieBakerMA
- "I don't want to overly complicate that process to such an extent that people start to wonder, you know, what is it that's actually going on here."

6. Former California Governor Jerry Brown: @JerryBrownGov
- "Ranked choice voting is overly complicated and confusing. I believe it deprives voters of genuinely informed choice."

7. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska): @SenDanSullivan
- "People are starting to look nationally and say 'this could be the answer.' I think they need to be cautious about that. ... It's very confusing."

- "Ninety-five percent of the people talking to me about our new ranked-choice voting system were saying how utterly confusing it was."

@David_Bossie

8. - "By its very design, RCV slows down the process of counting the votes and introduces an array of ambiguities into what should be a simple process of determining a clear winner."
- "The obvious truth is that RCV is COMPLICATED, difficult to understand, and relies on a counting process shrouded in mystery."

9. Victoria Marshall, The Federalist: @vemrshll
- "As one might imagine, this process often is riddled with errors. Not only can election results take weeks or even months to tabulate, but sometimes the wrong candidate wins."

10. Professor James G. Gimpel:
- "Unlike ordinary elections and ordinary runoffs, voters are required to make predictions about who will be left standing following an initial tabulation of the votes."

11. NAACP's Hazel Dukes:
- "It is voter suppression... I hope that the courts see that ranked choice voting is not right for democracy."

12. J. Christian Adams:
- "Every state should ban ranked-choice voting. It is the real VOTE DENIAL."

13. Jason Snead, Honest Elections Project: @jasonwsnead
- "Clearly, Ranked-Choice Voting is a confusing mess that makes voting harder and elections less transparent. Yet, millions of dollars are being spent to sell the public on RV, to campaign for ballot measures, and to lobby lawmakers to expand it in states across the country."

- "RCV isn't the path to a better election system, just a more COMPLICATED one that DISENFRANCHISES Americans and fuels doubt and confusion. Ranked-choice is clearly the wrong choice for voting in America."

14. Trent England: @trentengland
- "The Ranked-Choice Voting process makes vote counting unnecessarily complex. In New York, it required eight rounds of tabulation."

- "Complexity drives down turnout. That's obvious. And CV advocates admit that their system needs expensive education campaigns to help voters make sense of it. Even with all that, people still wind up disenfranchised."

15. Rep. Austin Smith, Arizona State Representative: @azaustinsmith
- "Between voter confusion, high rates of ballot exhaustion and the difficulty of tabulating the results, Ranked-choice voting increases voter disenfranchisement, distrust in the process and deters candidates from taking stances on issues important to every Arizonan."

16. Governor Steve Sisolak, Nevada: @SteveSisolak
- "We should be finding ways to continue our progress, not pushing a rushed constitutional change that would make our system more confusing, error-prone and exclusionary."

17. Councilman Daneek Miller (D-Queens):
- “Under ranked-choice voting, the city of San Francisco has seen a depressed voter turnout in communities of color.”

18. Khalid Baylor, President of the Vulcan Society:
- “When you go to the voting machine, you want to think of your vote as counted, not having it counted among four people.”

19. State Senator Mark Koran (R-Minnesota): @MarkkoranMN
- “Every vote should count, and every vote should be as simple as ‘I picked my top candidate.’”

20. Councilwoman Adrienne Adams (D-Queens):
- "Now that our black and brown communities have found electoral success, the powerful special interests want to change the rules on us."

21. Former U.S. Senator Mark Begich (D-Alaska): @MarkBegich
- "I stand with a bipartisan group of politicians, advocates, and academics in opposing Ranked Choice Voting because when it comes to elections, every vote cast in our state should count. The evidence and experience from around the country suggests that Ranked Choice Voting will work against this goal, adding unnecessary confusion and potentially reducing voter turnout. We need to be spending our time and resources to make it easier for all Alaskans to speak up at the ballot box, not harder."

22. Jason McDaniel, Associate Professor of Political Science, San Francisco State University:
- "[W]e need to remove barriers to voting, and I think ranked-choice voting is counter to that. My research shows that when you make things more complicated, which this does, there's going to be lower turnout."

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